

Greener oilseed rape fields deliver greater yields

TECHNICAL UPDATE

January 2008

In Brief

Despite the predicted low risk of *Sclerotinia* in 2007, the disease caused widespread losses to UK oilseed rape crops.

- NK Seeds' grower survey revealed 43% of crops infected
- AMISTAR delivered excellent *Sclerotinia* control under high pressure
- AMISTAR treated fields frequently generated over £200 extra profit
- AMISTAR consistently delivers profitable extra yield, even if there is no disease
- AMISTAR split-application recommendations for crops at high *Sclerotinia* risk



UNTREATED

AMISTAR 1.0 l/ha

Growers' own field trials last year revealed the damaging effects of Sclerotinia attack. In Nottingham, Sclerotinia hit 40% of untreated plants (left), compared to the cleaner, greener and higher yield potential in AMISTAR treated crop.

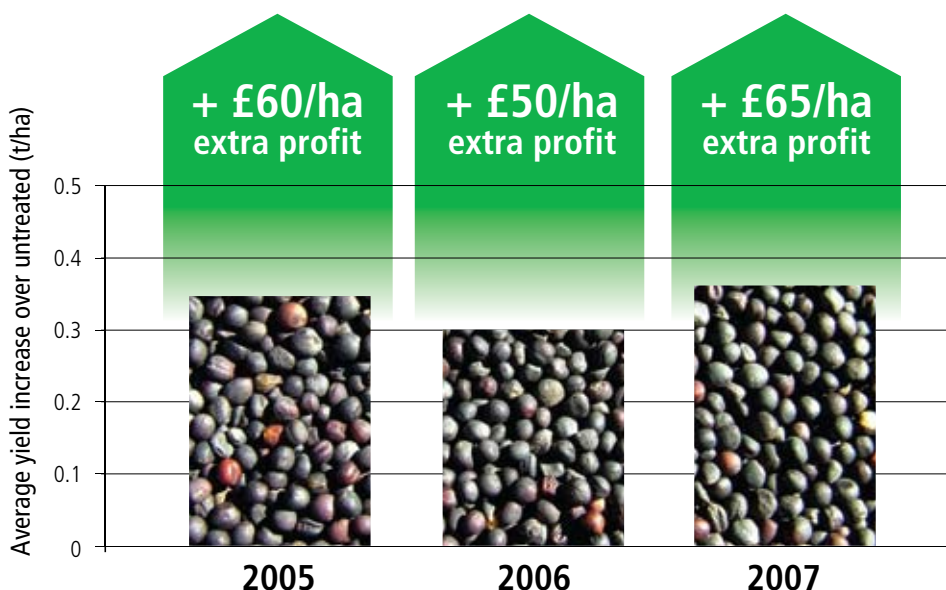
Amistar delivers greener fields and greater yield through:

- Prolonged green leaf retention
- Excellent *Sclerotinia* control
- Prevents stem rot and reduces lodging
- More efficient use of sunlight
- Yield advantage even in the absence of disease

Consistent yield and profit

In 65 trials across the country over the past three seasons AMISTAR has consistently delivered significantly higher yields, averaging over 0.35 t/ha extra yield and an increased margin over costs worth £57 per hectare.

INCREASE IN MARGIN*



*Based on £240/t

Strength of *Sclerotinia* control

Growers' experience and repeated trials reports highlighted the strength of AMISTAR for controlling *Sclerotinia* in 2007.

Controlling *Sclerotinia* in the oilseed rape crop:

- Increases oilseed yield
- Simplifies harvesting
- Reduces sclerotia return to the soil
- Minimises the future risk of infection

Two spray strategy for High Disease Risk

High disease risk AMISTAR recommendations

Experience in 2007 highlights *Sclerotinia* infection is hard to predict. In high risk situations, a split-application of AMISTAR could provide extra protection through a prolonged *Sclerotinia* infection period.

- Apply 0.8 l/ha at yellow bud
- Apply 0.8 l/ha at mid-flower

In trials two AMISTAR applications at 0.8 l/ha delivered 4% more yield than two applications of boscalid at 0.5 kg/ha.



Advantages of the AMISTAR split-application approach include:

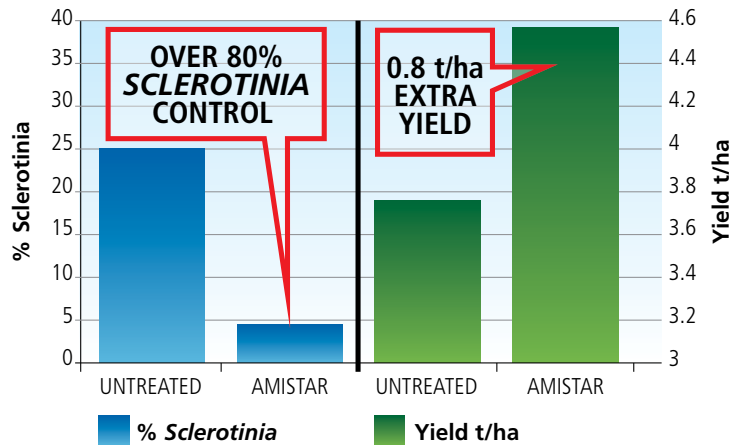
- Greatest protection from *Sclerotinia*
- Trials show added strength against late *Alternaria* and *Botrytis* infection
- Longer green leaf retention

AMISTAR 2008 GUIDELINES

<i>Sclerotinia</i> risk	Application rate	Timing
Low Risk* - Single application	0.8-1.0 l/ha	Yellow bud – mid flowering
High Risk* - Single application	1.0 l/ha	Early - mid flowering
High Risk - Split-application	0.8 l/ha	Yellow bud
	0.8 l/ha	Mid flowering

*2007 experience highlighted the difficulty of predicting *Sclerotinia* risk; the AMISTAR split-application approach covers the entire *Sclerotinia* infection risk period

HGCA trials have shown AMISTAR achieved:



- 84% disease control
- £160/ha margin over untreated
- £24/ha extra margin over prothioconazole
- £77/ha extra margin over boscalid



AMISTAR provides effective control of *Sclerotinia* in the crop, to prevent premature die-back and yield loss, as well as reducing the return of sclerotia infection to the soil.