

FACT SHEET

JUNE 2021

Export hay companies position on the use of imi-tolerant oat varieties and Sentry herbicide technology.

Key Points

1. AEXCO supports the use of Sentry herbicide in commercially released imi-tolerant oat varieties when used as directed by the herbicide label. Please note any 2021 Kingbale plantings are subject to an agreement with InterGrain.
2. AEXCO believes the judicious use of Sentry herbicide will improve hay quality by reducing contamination with volunteer cereals and wild grasses such as brome grass, barley grass and wild oats.
3. For long term sustainable use of Sentry on imi-tolerant oat varieties, AEXCO strongly recommends growers adopt the stewardship program described by Nufarm in their 2021 brochure [BR-imiCrops-2021-Best-Management-Practice Web.pdf \(nufarm.com\)](#).

It is important oat hay growers understand before they use imi-tolerant oat varieties and Sentry herbicide technology that wild oat can develop imidazolinone herbicide resistance independently, however, in certain conditions in a paddock wild oat can outcross to cultivated oat or the imidazolinone herbicide tolerance of cultivated oat might transfer to a wild oat. This seed can survive as an imidazolinone herbicide tolerant weed. Crops cut for hay will harvest and remove most of the hybrid seeds, if the hybrid occurred on the cultivated oat plant but not if it occurred on the wild oat plant, as wild oat plants may shatter and drop seed prior to cutting for hay.

Following some simple management strategies can mitigate survival of imidazolinone herbicide tolerant weed. To minimise the risk of hybridisation or outcrossing:

- Imidazolinone herbicide tolerant oat should be grown on paddocks with no, or very low populations of, wild oats.
- Paddocks known to have a history of wild oats are not suitable unless a long-term strategy to eradicate them has already been implemented.
- Crops cut for hay have a much lower risk of hybrid seeds developing on the cultivated oat, however, there is the potential for wild oat hybrids to drop seed prior to cutting for hay. The use of Sentry will suppress any wild oat population present and imidazolinone herbicide tolerant oat intended for grain production should have Sentry applied prior to sowing to minimise the risk of hybridisation.
- Seed crops should be inspected for the presence of wild oat. In the season following an imidazolinone herbicide tolerant oat crop, a control strategy must be implemented to control hybrid seeds. This should involve an alternative Mode of Action (MOA) for wild oat control and not an imidazolinone herbicide.