

# Agronomy Discussion Group

Report June 2025

Harriet Prosser



# IBA

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International  
Blackcurrant  
Association

# What have we been up to...?

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- Mostly this....
- Late night/early morning video call meetings to include the northern and southern hemispheres!
- 20 members, 8 nationalities
- Meeting quarterly to discuss a key blackcurrant topic, so far;
  - Nutrition
  - Weed management
  - Today... Flowering and pollination





# Aims and Objectives

- To share knowledge and best practice
- To support blackcurrant agronomy globally
- To build connections
- To create an online resource for IBA members

We don't have all the answers but it's a great forum to share ideas, and research past and present.



Country/Region:	UK generally			
 				
Contributor name and role (farmer/agronomist etc.)	Harriet Prosser - Agronomist			
List herbicides available in your country	carfentrazone-ethyl, clethodim, clopyralid, Fatty acids: pelagonic acid, Fluazifop-p-butyl, flufenacet & metribuzin, glyphosate, Isoxaben, Napropamide, Pendimethalin, propyzamide, Imazamox+Pendimethalin			
Standard herbicide program	Over winter	Pre emergence	Spring /summer	Post harvest
	Propyzamide +/- glyphosate seperately	flufenacet & metribuzin + Pendimethalin	carfentrazone-ethyl or glyphosate	glyphosate
	Ad hoc. Clopyralid for thistles, clethodim for grasses in the growing season			
Problem weeds	Very regionally specific Perennials – Thistles <i>Cirsium arvense</i> , nettles <i>Urtica dioica</i> , dock <i>Rumex obtusifolius</i> , woody nightshade <i>Solanum dulcamara</i> Annuals – Grasses various spp., dandelion <i>Taraxacum</i> , clovers <i>Trifolium</i> , cleavers <i>Galium aparine</i> ,			
Are ground covers used, (Yes/no) what sort, for how long,	Approximated 30% of UK area utilises polythene (or starch based biodegradable forms) ground covers. Different strategies some just for the first 2 years, some for the life of the plantation. Customer policy for complete removal of any polythene covers to reduce environmental burden. Clear benefits to establishment – some challenges as the crop matures, disposal a challenge.			
Are beds mulched with organic materials (compost/wood chip etc)	This is starting to happen on a small number of farms at establishment – Composted green waste applied to good effect, supressing weed to an extent but herbicides utilised too (challenges with the % OM content).			
Novel approaches being explored commercially	Mechanical weeders High pressure water weeders			
Novel approaches being explored experimentally	Electric weeders Steam weeders Living mulches – low growing weed supressing green cover to out com choice critical			
Any other comments/observations	Lots of hand weeding going on in establishing plantations.			

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# Date and topic for the next meeting

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Today !

13:30 11<sup>th</sup> June Meeting of the Agronomy group

Topic

- Optimising flowering and Pollination

Theres no limit to membership so if you would like to join you are very welcome please email:

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