

February 2017 mechanical weeding blog

The weeds have started growing despite the generally cold weather. However, the wheat seems to have developed very little. The weeds present are predominately broadleaved with speedwells, dead nettles, charlock and to a lesser extent poppy, chickweed, fumitory, cleavers, cranesbill, mayweed, docks. I'm sure there are many others as well! The wheat is around growth stage 21 or 22 (main stem and one or two tillers).



We have now agreed all the weeders for the winter wheat trial. They should arrive on the farm by this time next month, awaiting the appropriate weather window. The weeders will all run on the same day when weather conditions permit. However, the Garford Robocrob weeder would ideally be used straight away. This would allow the camera device guiding the weeder to help identify the rows of crops clearly before the weeds grow too much, making it even harder to distinguish the rows of wheat. This first weeding for the Garford could actually have been done when the ground was covered in frost, but unfortunately the weeders are not on site yet. It would also change the experimental conditions for this weeder.

George Hall from Garford assessing the crop to work out the best way to set up the machine.

