

BBRO Advisory Bulletin No 8 - W/C 23rd May 2016

Crops continue to make good progress in many areas and where there has been rain, this has helped freshen up crops. Overall, weed control programmes are working well and herbicides are holding most weeds. A few crops are showing some signs of herbicide damage but they should grow away from this. Hoeing is also underway in some crops. Remember it is important to hit weed beet early when hoeing to maximise the chances of control.

The presence of leaf miner (mangold fly) and associated leaf mining damage is increasing in a number of crops and is causing concern for many growers. This week's Bulletin therefore is focusing on this pest.

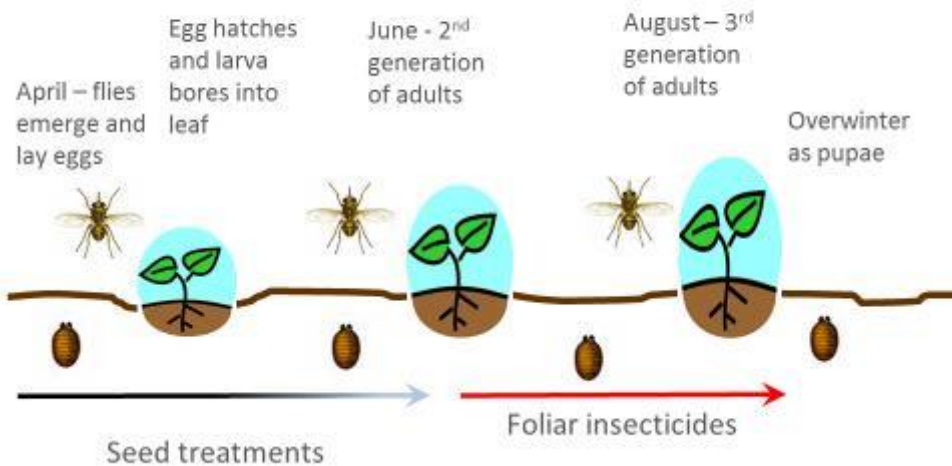
BBRO are working closely with the industry and regulatory authorities to obtain an Off-label Extension of Use for Biscaya (Thiacloprid) in sugar beet crops this season. Please remember that the previous emergency off label approval from last season was time limited and did not extend to the 2016 season.

We have highlighted the urgency of the situation with the authorities and we are using information on current pest incidence and activity in crops in order to support this process.

Many reports of leaf miner activity have been received by the BBRO. Typical hotspots include the Wash area, parts of Norfolk, Suffolk & Cambridgeshire.

As reported in previous Advisory Bulletins, the seed treatments have been keeping leaf miner populations (see below) in check but as crops come to the end this 8-10 week period protection, larval activity is increasing, resulting in leaf damage.

Biology and control of the mangold fly (*Pegomya hyoscyami*)



The signs of leaf mining are a signal that larvae are active and they should be clearly visible to the naked eye. If unsure, hold the leaf towards the sun to check for presence of larvae.

BBRO trial work in 2015 showed potential yield reductions where populations remained untreated once the initial protection by seed treatments had elapsed. **Remember, the threshold for treatment is when the number of eggs and larvae exceeds the square of the number of true leaves. For example, a plant with four true leaves would need a population of 16 or more eggs and larvae to warrant treatment and a crop with 6 true leaves would need a population of 36 or more eggs and larvae.**

The only product with specific approval for foliar application for leaf miner, is Hallmark Zeon and whilst the level of control was not as high as some other pesticides in BBRO trials in 2015 it still gave protection against yield loss. At recommended rates, there is a maximum of 2 applications that can be made to sugar beet for leaf miner control.

As with all pyrethroids we need to target applications carefully to minimise the number of applications, protect beneficial organisms and any potential for resistance build up.

BBRO trial work indicated that control by pesticides was most effective at egg hatch/early larval development so timing of applications is important. Therefore, crops need to be monitored closely to establish the optimum time for application.

Target your first application when above threshold to control the first generation as soon as eggs hatch and then check the larval activity for the need of any follow up treatment. However, it may be prudent to retain the second application to control the next generation of egg hatch.

As the season progresses this may be complicated as the different generations may not develop as discrete cohorts in crops and potentially will overlap. Clearly, if you have crops planted at different dates it is likely that you have populations at different stages. **Check your first planted crops as a priority.** By regularly monitoring and recording crops for eggs and larvae number it should be possible to plot out approximately where the population is in the development cycle.

BBRO is monitoring adult activity using yellow pan traps and have 10 of these across the beet area. This will also give some general indication of the different generations.

If you are looking at crops please keep a record of the numbers you count on average per plant and of course the growth stage (number of leaves) to establish the treatment threshold, as well as the effectiveness of treatment. Check at least 10 plants in different representative areas of the field to establish a more accurate estimate of levels. Whilst BBRO have general indication on numbers in crops, this is no substitute for crop-specific information.

Caution: this information is based on results of experiments and experience but cannot constitute a recommendation.

BASIS Points

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