

BBRO Advisory Bulletin No.11 - Week Ending 6th October 2017

Quick Update

- **Some large differences in foliar vigour and colour are being observed.**
- **Healthy canopies provide more yield potential for late lifted beet – assess your crops carefully and plan lifting accordingly.**
- **Foliar diseases – Rust and cercospora are still active and present in many crops. Cases of stemphylium are also being seen, little powdery mildew now in crops – any further fungicide applications need to be applied as soon as possible.**
- **The BBRO harvesting testing programme is underway. Current conditions are good and losses and damage levels are low. Check for crowning quality to ensure yield is not being lost by over crowning.**

Selecting crops for harvest



Your harvesting plan will primarily be based on soil type, following crops and frost risk. However, you will also need to consider the presence of any root rots. We are seeing some cases of rots such as fusarium and violet root rot (shown in the photo left) and now is the time to be vigilant. They are often localised within a field so check to see how widespread symptoms are. Crops with significant levels of root rots should also be candidates for first harvesting.

When choosing which fields to harvest, those with poor cover, lower plant populations and more extensive yellowing or higher levels of foliar disease should be harvested first. Check crops for the level of yellowing on the lower leaves in the canopy. Lower leaf senescence tends to be natural senescence as opposed to stress-induced senescence. There is some research work that indicates that crops with lower levels of natural senescence have greater growth potential.

There are some very visible differences between canopy vigour and greenness at this stage of the season. This may be between varieties in the same field (see photo right) or just due to field variability. Be aware that differences between varieties will be in part due to their genetics and may not reflect yield potential.



Protecting the crop

Remember that to maintain a healthy canopy further fungicide application may be required, depending on the disease risk. Crops destined for later harvesting (January and February) will generally benefit from a third fungicide where diseases are present. Don't delay in applying this and creating a window for further disease progression. Target application within 28 days of the previous fungicide application.



We are seeing some indication of differences between varieties in terms of rust development this season (see photo left) so ensure that you check different varieties to establish the levels of infection in your crops.

Be aware of specific label restrictions for the number of applications of different products that can be made to crops and follow recommendations for water volume and spray quality. Some products recommend the use of a higher water volume in 'dense crops'.

As we move into campaign, remember also to check and comply with the harvest interval (HI) of different products. These range between 21 and 42 days, so check the label of the product used. Information on fungicides, including harvest interval, are also available in the BBRO Reference Book (www.bbro.co.uk/publications).

It has also been drawn to our attention that there is a mistake in the 2017 Green Pesticide manual for the harvest interval of Escolta. It should be 21 days and not 35 days as quoted.

Minimising losses at harvest

Key areas to check are:

- Whole beet left on the surface – more than 4/5 small roots in a 20m stretch behind a 6-row harvester indicate a higher than average loss and warrant a check on harvester set up.
- At the pile, check for crowing quality in line with the guide below.
- At the pile, also check for the levels of root breakage. If you find more than 80% of the roots with root tip damage less than 2cm in diameter your losses are generally less than 1 -2t/ha. If you find more than 50% of roots with damage more than 2cm in diameter, your losses may be more than 2-3 t/ha and worthy of investigation to see how these can be reduced.

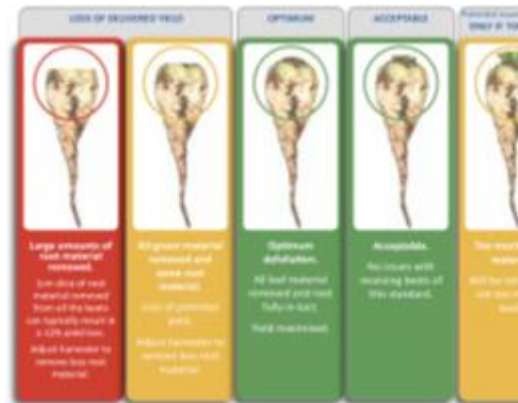
- Also check of signs of shatter cracking, splitting and bruising which may indicate beet is being cleaned and handled too aggressively. Check that beet is not being dropped from excessive heights.

The BBRO Harvester Test scheme is now running and there is a programme of testing in place covering all factory areas and different contractors/operators. Please contact your British Sugar Area Manager if you want further information.

Checking surface losses behind the harvester



Crowing guide



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

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