



Issued: 23rd August 2022



## IN BRIEF

- Variable rainfall across the beet growing area in the last 10 days has resulted in a wide range of conditions relating to crop growth, pest, and disease risk. Broadly, there has been a north/south split of rainfall, with crops in the north receiving more rain and faring better but now they are faced with a higher risk of cercospora. However, it remains important to check individual crops and not to assume that all crops will be similar.
- Where there has been little rainfall the threat from cercospora leaf spot remains low despite high temperatures ([please see BBRO updates](#)). Rust can be found but generally pressure is light, as these conditions continue to favour powdery mildew development. Therefore, please check crops for this disease (and target varieties with a lower disease rating for initial assessments) keeping a watch for other diseases too.
- Where possible, spray at the first signs of any disease. However, spraying fungicides will continue to be problematic especially if crops are wilting, remain flat for extended periods and/or are losing older leaves. When spraying for disease try and apply products when the canopy is upright and the inner leaves turgid. This is best done early and before the heat of the day.
- The full list of fungicides is available in the BBRO Reference book (page 105), but a good broad-spectrum product with efficacy against powdery mildew will be important under these current conditions.
- Caligula (Fluopyram and prothioconazole) has also now gained full approval for the UK crop, but only one application is permitted from 1st September onwards. Please check label for details and conditions of use.
- BBRO Plant Clinic has received further reports of damaged inner leaves/petioles, black hearts, and loss of the growing point in crops particularly in the Bury factory area. This appears to be more prevalent in very dry and hot conditions and we believe that, in the most part, this is being caused by caterpillar damage, potentially of the beet moth. However, BBRO Plant Clinic investigations continue.
- For some, weed beet and bolters continue to increase and need controlling to prevent seed return to the soil.



## Rainfall

The table below highlights the variation in rainfall over the last 14 days (up to the 23<sup>rd</sup> August) across the beet growing area. This is based on a sample of rainfall measurements from our network of in-crop sensors.

Area	Site	Rainfall (mm) in last 14 days
Lincoln	Leadenham	57.7
Doncaster	Carr Hill	50.0
Spalding	Holbeach Hurn	24.4
Kings Lynn	Eaubrink	23.9
Peterborough	Farcet	9.1
Dereham	Brisely	8.6
Norwich	Raveningham	6.1
Newmarket	Stetchworth	6.1
Thetford	North Pickenham	4.1
Ely	Littleport	3.3
Suffolk coast	Woodbridge	2.5
Eye	Saxmundham	0

This highlights that there will be a fragmented risk of foliar disease with higher cercospora risk in wetter areas and powdery mildew in drier areas. It is vital to check **ALL** crops for symptoms of disease as this may be very localised.

Remember, the key to controlling cercospora is to target fungicide application at an early stage of infection.

## Canopy damage

Several growers, particularly in the Bury factory area, are reporting blackened and/or damaged growing points to beet (Fig. 1). Usually this would be due to downy mildew infection or boron deficiency, but this year, possibly due to the hot dry conditions we believe that this is being caused by the caterpillars/larva of the beet moth. We are currently determining the species involved but this is different to caterpillars of the cutworm or silver Y moth. This is an unusual pest in the UK, but is known to be more problematic in Mediterranean areas. Rain or irrigation will help reduce numbers and damage but in more serious infestations, treatment with a foliar insecticide may be required. If you see something similar, please contact the BBRO Plant Clinic so that we can determine the extent of this problem and discuss control options.



Fig 1: Damage to the growing point considered to be due to caterpillar feeding

### Weed beet and bolters

Hand pulling is the most effective method of control. Weed beet stems are also appearing from groundkeepers on old loading sites and spoil heaps. These also need removing. If the weed beet and bolters are either pre-flowering or just in flower, their stems can be pulled, broken and left in field. If they have completed flowering, which is now more likely, they need to be removed from the field. Weed wiping and cutting are options but are generally less effective than hand pulling. Details of these approaches can be found in the BBRO reference book

<https://bbro.co.uk/publications/reference-book/>



### EVENTS

## BeetField22: September Re-visits

**Topics:**  
Foliar disease & fungicide update  
Cercospora risk & management focus  
Variety selection for 2023  
Harvest & storage



Book 1 hour slot: [www.bbro.co.uk](http://www.bbro.co.uk)  
(2pm, 3pm or 4pm)  
BASIS & NRoSO points available



6th Sept - Eau Brink (King's Lynn)  
8th Sept - Fersfield Diss  
13th Sept - Bracebridge

## BBRO BeetTech23 dates confirmed (details to follow):

**7<sup>th</sup> February – Newark Showground**

**9<sup>th</sup> February – Newmarket Racecourse**



### CONTACTS

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### BASIS POINTS

Two BASIS points in total (not per bulletin) have been allocated for the period between 01/06/22 and 31/05/23 reference **CP/120094/2223/g**. To claim these points please email [cpd@basis-reg.co.uk](mailto:cpd@basis-reg.co.uk)

Two NRoSO points in total (not per bulletin) have been allocated between 01/06/2022 and 31/05/2023 **NO471260f** reference. To claim these points please email [NRoSOC PD@cityandguilds.com](mailto:NRoSOC PD@cityandguilds.com)