

BBRO Advisory Bulletin No 9 - W/C 6th June 2016

- **The BBRO has submitted an EAMU request to CRD for the use of Biscaya for leaf miner control on sugar beet this season and we will keep you all informed of progress and outcomes.**
- **Generally, the more advanced crops are beginning to meet across the rows but some crops, especially those later planted crops, are behind where we would usually expect them at this time of the year. However, many soils have sufficient moisture now and the recent injection of heat will greatly help further canopy expansion.**

Leaf miner issues continue to affect a number of growers and we are aware that some crops have now been treated with Hallmark Zeon in an attempt to control this pest. It appears that most damage is currently confined to the older leaves where eggs were originally laid. Please remember to use the appropriate threshold for application of any insecticide as highlighted in previous bulletins. We are also aware that the seed treatments continue to work on crops that have been in the ground for less than eight weeks.

Aphids are also flying in reasonable numbers across all four factory areas, although the cooler, wetter conditions in East Anglia last week did curb activity. Again, crops should be protected for up to 14 weeks by the seed treatments, but please send in any reports of wingless aphids on treated crops as this would be an indication that the treatments are running out of steam.

However, there is some good news.... there are plenty of beneficial insects in the crop too.

The first Silver Y moth has been caught in one of the BBRO pheromone traps in Norfolk, but the species catching all the attention at the moment is the diamondback moth which has invaded parts of Norfolk in their tens of thousands. The Plant Clinic has received a number of calls and comments about this pest especially as they have been found resting in beet fields. However, all the literature suggests that they attack brassicas crops and not sugar beet.

Remember that Silver Y moth has the characteristic 'Y' shaped marking on their wings.



Diamondback moth (long 'cigar shaped body)



Silver Y moth with 'Y' marking on wings

The first reports of downy mildew have been confirmed over the last 7 days. To date only the odd plant has been affected, but BBRO would appreciate any further comments about this disease.

Aphanomyces has been seen on several samples this week too. Classic blackleg symptoms were observed (see below) and crops affected tended to be sown later when soil temperatures would have been higher this encourages the development of this disease. Seed treatments should prevent significant plant losses but keep an eye open for any patches of progressive disease development.



Weed control - for those crops where canopies remain open, weeds are present, and where further hoeing is not planned, it is a good idea to include a

good level of residual active ingredient in the final herbicide application to help suppress weeds until such time as the crop canopy closes.

Second applications of clopyralid are now going on to complete volunteer potato control. This is where the real advantage of marking any patches as described in an earlier bulletin pays off. Potatoes are harder to see as crop canopies are developing quickly and marking the areas earlier season allows subsequent sprays to be targeted only where required.

Continue to take every opportunity to hoe weed beet and thereby minimise the need for hand rogueing later in the season when weed beet stems appear above the crop canopy.

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

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