

## **BBRO Advisory Bulletin No.10 - Week Ending 15th September 2017**

### **Quick Update**

- **Foliar diseases - Rust and some cercospora outbreaks are becoming more widespread in crops.**
- **Ensure second fungicides sprays have been applied.**
- **Good healthy canopies provide more yield potential for late lifted beet - assess your crops and plan lifting accordingly.**

### **Foliar Diseases**

We are seeing variable levels of foliar disease developing, even where fungicides have been applied in some cases. Rust appears to be the main disease and current conditions are favourable resulting in the disease being quite active in some crops (pic. below).



Ensure you have applied a second fungicide to crops destined to be harvested from October.

We are seeing some indication of differences between varieties in terms of rust development this season 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 such as Escolta recommend the use of a higher water volume in 'dense crops'.

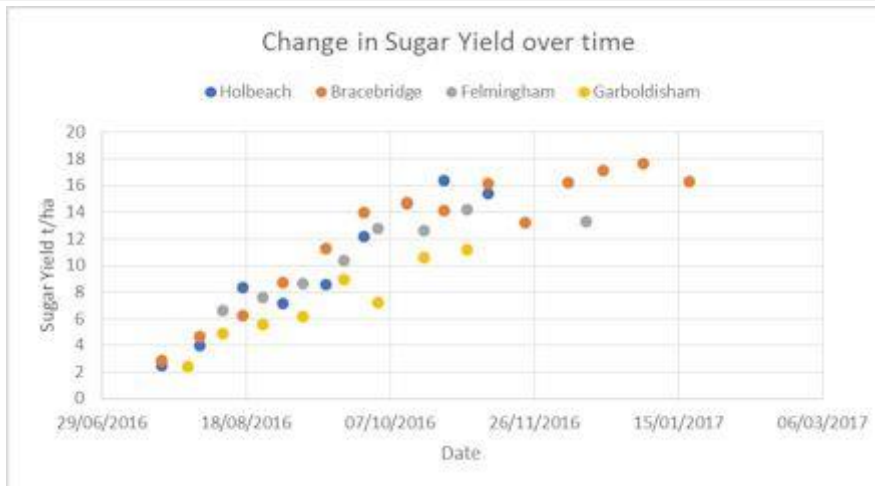
As we move into campaign, remember also to check and comply with the harvest interval (HI) of different products. These range between 21 and 42 days, so check the label of the product used. Information on fungicides, including harvest interval, are also available in the BBRO Reference Book ([www.bbro.co.uk/publications](http://www.bbro.co.uk/publications)).

### **Harvest Planning**

It is now important to decide which fields are going to be harvested first. Notwithstanding factors such as soil type, following crops and frost risk, you will need to consider further crop canopy potential and likelihood of root rots.

**Root rots** - any crops with root rots should also be candidates for first harvesting. We have seen some samples with fusarium infection in the Plant Clinic recently. Now is the time to be vigilant for any root rots.

**Canopy yield potential** - those crops with low leaf cover, more extensive yellowing or higher levels of foliar disease should be harvested first, allowing others to optimise their yield. Selecting crops with the better canopies and therefore greater yield potential can deliver real yield advantage as highlighted in 2016, by the BBRO sequential harvest digs. This work showed how yields increase throughout the season with increases of up to 40% from September to December. The graph below shows the increase in sugar levels over time at four sites. Fresh weight yield (t/ha) followed a similar trend. Of course, the 2016 autumn was a relatively mild period but this highlights the potential of crops with good canopy potential to capitalise on good growing conditions and build yield at this stage of the season. Remember that to maintain a healthy canopy further fungicide application may be required, depending on the disease risk.



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



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