



IN BRIEF

- Reports of foliage diseases remain sporadic.
- Powdery mildew reported more frequently in the east (Norfolk, Cambridgeshire & Suffolk)
- Presence of cercospora now being reported.
- Canopies continue to recover from the early drought but are still showing a range of defects and symptoms, so be clear on the cause before treating.
- Fungicides should be applied as soon as disease is found in crops.
- Pest levels remain generally low.
- Advanced Sugar Beet Course – closing date for applications 1st September. Currently two BBRO bursaries available to growers.



ADVISORY

Foliar Disease Control – points to remember.

- Know what disease(s) are in your crop to select the best fungicide options. Details on diseases and fungicide options can be found in the BBRO 2018 pest, disease and weed guide. This can be found on-line at <https://bbro.co.uk/publications/weeds-pest-and-diseases-2018/>
- Don't assume one crop is the same as another. Check each crop carefully.
- Know where specific varieties are sown within fields to assess disease levels. Infection may be more advanced in more susceptible varieties. Make the most of disease ratings of the 2018 RL list for rust and mildew. Download a copy of the 2018 RL here: <https://bbro.co.uk/sugar-beet-varieties/recommended-list/>
- Ensure water volume recommendations are adhered to and are not cut back, especially as canopies recover and increase in size. Many products recommend that a higher water volume is used in crops with dense canopies to get better penetration and coverage.
- Ensure the gap between the first and second (or second and third applications) is kept to within 28 days to prevent significant re-infection occurring between treatments.
- **Cercospora** - we don't have consistent information of varietal susceptibility to cercospora, but differences were observed last season so check different varieties carefully for this disease. Key symptoms of initial leaf infection to watch out for:

regular circular spots with necrotic, tan-grey centres and reddish-brown borders. If the disease develops unchecked, these spots can coalesce into larger brown necrotic areas on the leaf.



Confirmed case of cerospora in Norfolk (photo by courtesy of Darryl Shailes)

Other leaf-defects

- There are a range of other defects showing on leaves. Some symptoms may occur in patches and are associated with changing soil type, others are distributed evenly across the crop. Many light land crops are showing varying levels of yellowing on the leaf margins with some necrosis at the edge of the leaf. This is consistent with the symptoms of magnesium deficiency and most likely a consequent of deficiency occurring when plants were droughted.
- A few cases of boron deficiency have been reported, identified by the laddering effect on the leaf stem (photo).
- As crops recover, symptoms are likely to decrease in severity and incidence especially where there is new canopy growth. Foliar treatment of the symptoms is unlikely to be cost-effective although in severely-affected crops or where symptoms persist, this is worthy of consideration.





Leaf yellowing symptoms typical of magnesium deficiency

- Do you need help in identifying or confirming an issue in your sugar beet crop? We have facilities at our Norwich laboratory and glasshouses for microscopic investigation and virus detection. We would recommend that you submit at least one plant with the surrounding soil and if possible some photos of the surrounding area. A plant clinic form must be sent with each sample. This can be downloaded from the BBRO website <https://bbro.co.uk/research/plant-clinic/>

Please send samples to: BBRO, Plant Clinic, Innovation Centre, Norwich Research Park, Colney, Norwich. Norfolk. NR4 7GJ. Alternatively, email your query with photos to: plantclinic@bbro.co.uk



EVENTS

Improving Soil Health; Potential Impact on Yield (sugar beet focus)

Friday 7th September 2018 10:00am - 1:00pm FREE but **Booking essential**

Morley Business Centre, NR18 9DF

- 09:50 Start
- 10:10 Welcome and introduction. **Dr Simon Bowen, Research Scientist BBRO.**
- 10:20 Soil Health Partnership - sustainable soil health research; **Dr Elizabeth Stockdale, Head of Soils Group NIAB, UK.**
- 10:50 Soil tillage and long-term farm trials **David Clarke, NIAB. (TBC)**
- 11:20 Use of selected microorganisms to enhance crop growth and establishment; **Dr Jamie Stotzka, PlantWorks Ltd**
- 11:50 Use of cover crops to enhance soil health and influence beneficial mycorrhizal associations; **Dr Lydia Smith, Food Director of Innovation Farm and East Agritech Innovation Hub, UK**
- 12:15 Final remarks and resume **Dr Simon Bowen, Research Scientist BBRO.**
- 12:30 Discussion & networking**

To book your place please email at: info@bbro.co.uk

Advanced Sugar Beet Course

This remarkable opportunity to gain in-depth knowledge of the sugar beet crop and UK beet industry is open for applications.

Applications now open: [Click here to apply.](#)

This course comprises of six days of training, divided into three, two-day units. There is also a fourth, optional unit, on water management and irrigation, delivered by Cranfield University. The course is recognised by BASIS as an advanced module (worth 30 CPD points) and can be applied towards the BASIS Diploma in Agronomy. The total cost of the course is £1,500 + BASIS exam fee (and the soil and water optional unit at Cranfield). A limited number of bursaries (up to £750 each) will be available to growers and will need to be applied for at the time of application.

Closing date for applications 1st September 2018.

British Beet Research Organisation, Innovation Centre, Norwich Research Park, Colney Lane, Norwich, NR4 7GJ

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General Enquiries info@bbro.co.uk



BASIS POINTS

Two BASIS points in total (not per bulletin) have been allocated for the period between 01/06/18 and 31/05/19 reference CP/67099/1819/g. To claim these points please email michele@basis-reg.co.uk

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