



Issue 7: 24th June 2025



IN BRIEF

- [BBRO Aphid Watch](#) Aphid numbers believed to have peaked, with numbers starting to reduce as crop develops mature plant resistance.
- Of the 2584 aphids caught only 6 have tested positive for either BMVY or BChV.
- Beneficials can be found in plentiful supply across the crop.
- Heavy infestations of black bean aphid but beneficials are clearing up and plants are expected to grow away.
- Low levels of yellowing seen in crop but in most cases this is due to capsid damage or manganese/magnesium deficiency.
- Signs of BCN has been recorded in the Plant Clinic.
- Early control of weed beet recommended.
- Join Pam Chambers for a 'drop-in session' at BBRO Brettenham herbicide trial site – 2nd July.
- [BeetCast June: New profile and increasing portfolio of research](#)



ADVISORY

Aphid Watch

There has been a huge rise in aphid numbers over the past week, particularly in the Peterborough and Bury areas, with one plant in Bury having 50 green wingless aphids. However, data as of the 24th June show that early mid-June was the peak of activity and the numbers are now rapidly reducing, which coincides with many crops reaching the 16 leaf stage and mature plant resistance.

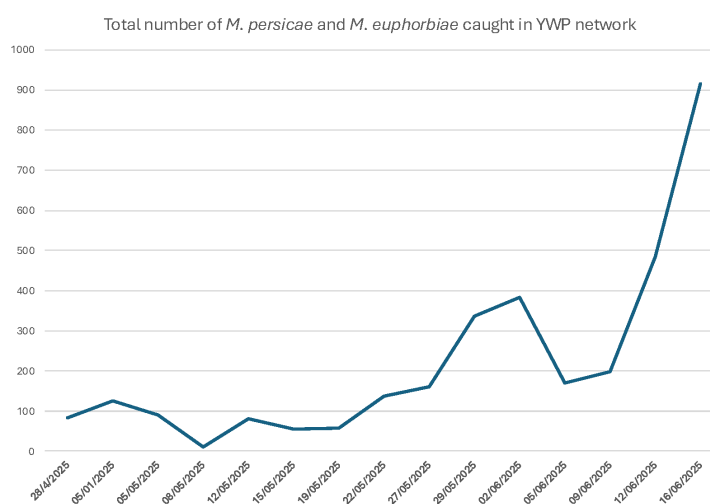


Figure 1: Aphids caught in the Yellow Water Pan network

To date we have tested 2584 aphids for BMVY and BChV with only 6 testing positive:

Linton	29/05/2025
Linton	29/05/2025
Morley	02/06/2025
Linton	09/06/2025
Doncaster	12/06/2025
Morley	16/05/2025

This means the level of these 2 viruses in the aphid population is approx. 0.2%. As a comparison, virus can clearly be seen on our Goliath virus trial site, where plants were hand inoculated.

The Aphid Watch website will remain open for a few more weeks. Expect to see more grey circles as the crop goes beyond the 16 leaf stage. [Aphids Site Map - BBRO](#).

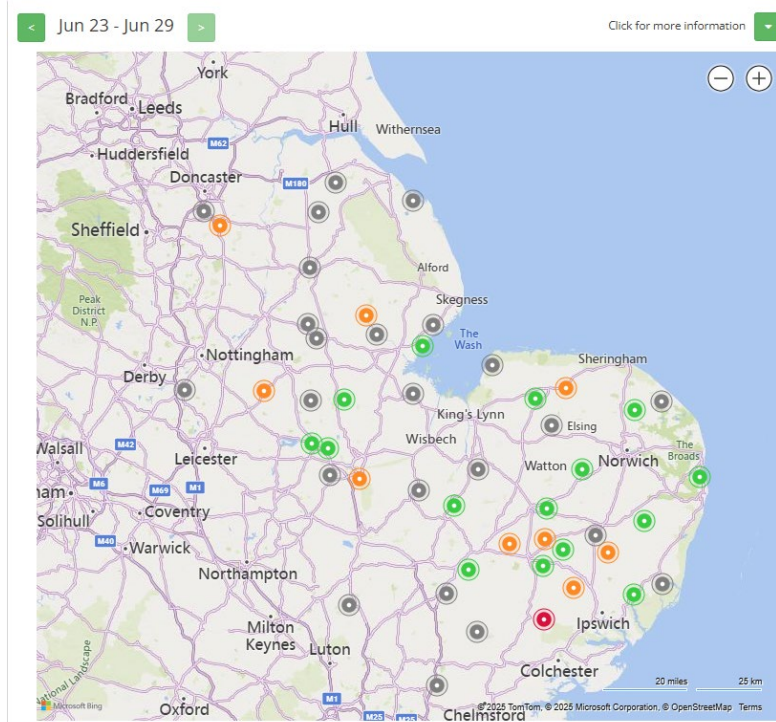


Figure 2: Screen shot from 24th June.

We have also seen an explosion in the number of beneficials in the crop, with ladybirds, soldier beetles, lacewing larvae and parasitic wasps leading the charge. These are particularly helpful in areas hit by the black bean aphid. Although infestations have been heavy in some areas the beneficials are cleaning these up and it is expected that the crop will soon grow away.

Is it virus yellows?

There could be a number of causes for yellowing in the crop. Whilst Virus yellows will be of primary concern we are seeing high levels of capsid damage, mainly around headlands. This can be diagnosed by checking the back veins of the beet leaf for telltale puncture marks.

We are also seeing both manganese and magnesium deficiencies due to rapid growth.

Crops affected by Virus yellows will have thick, crunchy leaves. If unsure, please contact the BBRO plant clinic.



Figure 3: Capsid damage

Beet Moth

Concern has been raised over the development of beet moth. Infestation appears to be heavier where this pest has previously been a problem. BBRO have submitted an Emergency Authorisation for the use of Coragen (diamide) for beet moth control. If granted this is expected to require a stewardship package. More details to follow. BBRO are also running a product trial with the aim of finding more control strategies. Unfortunately, the current dry, warm conditions are conducive for pest progression.

Please let your CM know if you have an issue with beet moth and the level of infection.

Weed-beet and bolters

Weed beet and bolters continue to increase and need controlling if a massive seed return to the soil is to be avoided. On average 1,500 seeds are produced per weed beet. Just one weed beet, bolter or tall weed per square metre can therefore reduce crop yields by 11% through shading and especially competition for water and nutrients in current conditions. 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 pre-flowering stems can be pulled, broken and left in field. If they have completed flowering, they need to be removed from the field. Weed wiping and cutting are options but are generally less effective than hand pulling.



Figure 4a: Pre-flowering weed beet Figure 4b: Flowering weed beet – remove from field

Beet Cyst Nematodes

We urge growers to check their crops for signs of BCN. This is best done in early morning, checking for any wilted patches in the field (check before any weather related wilting occurs). Cysts are easily identifiable on the roots. There are a number of BCN tolerant varieties available, including a Conviso option for 2026.

If you are considering the use of cover crops in BCN fields, a good option would be class one mustard or radish. Please see our Cover Crop Guide for more info. [BBRO Cover Crop Guide](#)

Foliar Diseases

We have not received any reports of disease as yet, but with current dry warm conditions Powdery mildew may be first to appear.



Figure 5: Light grey hue of powdery mildew on leaf.



EVENTS

Join us at one of the following events:

Royal Norfolk Show – 25th and 26th June – Innovation Hub, stand no. 333, avenue 11 and 12.

[2nd July – Brettenham Herbicide Trial 10am – ‘drop-in session’. Please register your interest.](#)



CONTACTS

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BASIS POINTS

Two BASIS points in total (not per bulletin) have been allocated for the period between
01/06/2024 – 31/05/2025 - CP/138145/2425/g. To claim these points please
email cpd@basis-reg.co.uk

Two NRoSO points in total (not per bulletin) have been allocated from 01/9/2024 –
31/05/2025 NO503154f. To claim these points please email nroso@basis-reg.co.uk.