



Issue 8: 10th July 2025



IN BRIEF

- Cercospora monitoring is now live and accessible on the BBRO website ([Cercospora Monitoring and Forecasting for 2025 - BBRO](#)). Spores have been identified on 5 of the 20 monitoring sites.
- Data collection for the [BBRO Aphid Watch](#) has now ceased, although the information is still available on the website. The crop is now being monitored for virus infection which is currently thought to be low.
- Virus testing of caught aphids is still ongoing, so far 8 of the 3136 tested have been found to carry either BMV or BChV (0.25% of the population).
- Low levels of yellowing seen in crop to date but in most cases this is due to capsid damage or manganese/magnesium deficiency.
- BCN reports have been recorded by the BBRO Plant Clinic.
- Warm, dry conditions continue to encourage beet moth activity with increasing reports of caterpillars found in the crop, particularly in the Bury factory area.
- Emergency authorisation for the use of one application of Coragen (chlorantraniliprole) has been granted for beet moth control until 30th September 2025.
- [BeetCast July: Overarching view of an agronomist](#)



ADVISORY

Foliar diseases

The first signs of both powdery mildew and rust have been seen in the crop in the Bury factory area (9th July). Please monitor your crops carefully and apply fungicides where appropriate, paying special attention to the labels especially with regard to application and any droughted crops.

Product Example	Powdery Mildew	Rust	Ramularia	Cercospora*
Angle/ Priori Gold	✓	✓	✓	✓
Caligula	✓	✓	✓	✓
Revystar XE	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sulphur (e.g. Kumulus, Microthiol, Thiopron)	✓	✗	✗	✗
Twist	✗	✓	✗	✗

Note: do not apply Caligula before the 1st September

Powdery mildew



When: July to early autumn

Symptoms: Grey mould on crop, starting on outer leaves

Risk: Mild winters, dry and warm conditions. Low resistance variety

Severity: Potentially one of the most yield damaging foliar diseases in sugar beet, in the UK. Early infections can reduce yields by up to 20%

Advice: Apply first foliar spray at the end of July/early August as soon as disease infection is seen

Rust



When: July onwards

Symptoms: Small orange/brown pustules on leaf surface, later defoliation can occur after frost

Risk: Damp conditions and temperatures between 15-22°C. Low resistance variety

Severity: Up to 10-14% yield reductions

Advice: Treat as soon as disease appears, this is usually mid-August to mid-September but can be earlier

Cercospora Leaf Spot

Cercospora spores have been identified on 5 of the 20 monitoring sites (Spornado network):

17th June – Bungay

23rd June - Corby Glen

30th June - East Ruston, Fotheringhay and Morley

Cercospora is likely to develop where there have been consistent levels of high humidity (approx. over 2 days). Current high temperatures and potential heavy rainfall increase this risk, although no symptoms have been reported in-field as yet.

BBRO will be monitoring spore development and weather forecasts to determine levels of risk. Results can be viewed on the BBRO website (<https://bbro.co.uk/on-farm/cercospora-risk/>). Text alerts to check crop will be sent to growers in areas of high risk.



When: Mid July to October

Symptoms: Circular spots 3-5mm in diameter with necrotic, tan-grey coloured centres and reddish-brown border. Spots coalesce, leading to severe defoliation

Risk: Warm wet weather, with temperatures above 25°C

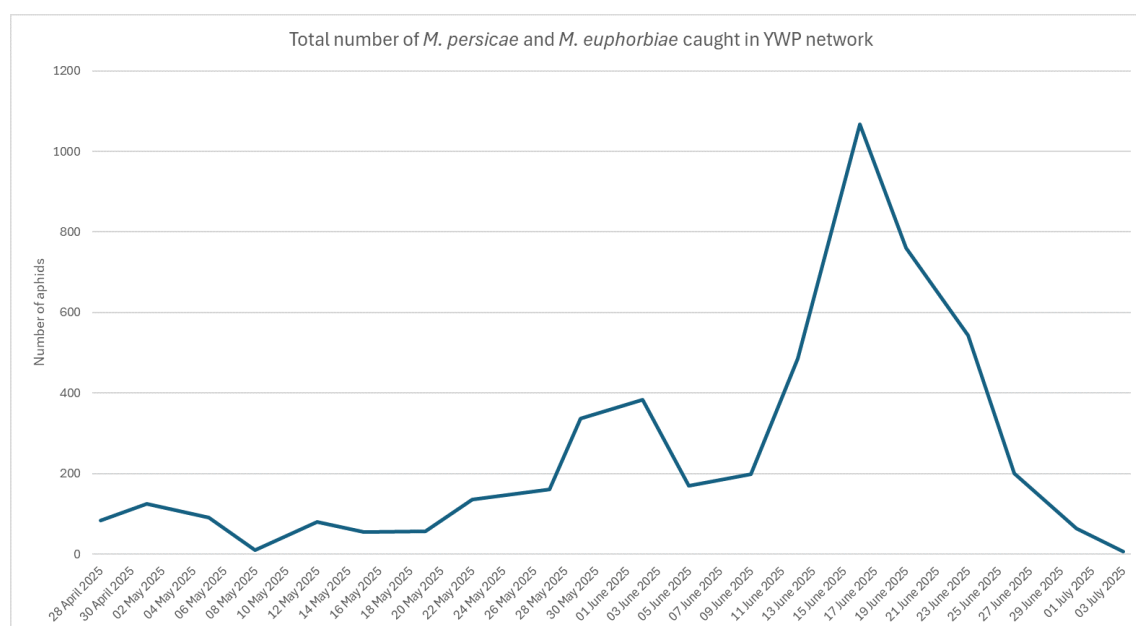
Severity: Potentially an increasing problem in the UK due to the increase in annual summer temperatures. In other countries yield losses have been known to exceed 50%

Advice: Increasing resistance to strobilurin and triazole products is limiting the effectiveness of fungicide control programmes against this fungal pathogen

Cercospora is known to develop resistance, so a varied spray programme with the products available is recommended.

Aphid Watch

The aphid monitoring programme has now come to an end for 2025. Data is still available to view via the BBRO website ([Aphid Watch](#)). Of the 3136 aphids tested for BMV and BChV, only 8 were found to be positive (0.25% of population). However, we are unable to determine the level of BYV carried by aphids, this will be determined by the level of disease identified in crop. Late drilled crops will still be at risk but for the majority, mature plant resistance has been reached.



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, distortion and browning of the midrib.

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 4: Capsid damage

Beet Moth

There are increasing concerns regarding beet moth this year with the hot, dry weather being conducive for its reproduction and spread. Unlike other species the beet moth caterpillars tend to mine into the stems and crown (more akin to the beet leaf miner *Pegomia betae*) causing damage to the hearts of the beet. In some areas beet moth appears to have been flying since late April and could potentially carry on until October, if weather remains conducive for their flight. This adds to the pressure of determining the best time to apply sprays. Potentially the best timing is at egg hatch with the threshold for treatment in several other European countries being when 10% of plants show damage to the heart leaves. We are continuing pheromone monitoring and have an ongoing project to better understand the beet moth life cycle at Warwick university as the exact time of egg laying and hatch is not currently known. Drought stressed canopies will be at higher risk for beet moth infestation as the crown will be more exposed for moths to lay their eggs and caterpillars to burrow into.

Approval has been received for the use of Coragen (the diamide chlorantraniliprole) for beet moth control. Coragen can be applied up to the 30th September 2025 and has a harvest interval of 21 days. Further info on this will shortly be available on our website [Our News - BBRO](#) and will include clear stewardship guidelines to be followed. It is important to note that the Coragen label states it must not be applied to any crop suffering from stress, for example, as a result of drought or disease attack. Some pyrethroids such



Figure 5: Beet moth

as those containing the active cypermethrin are also available with label approval for caterpillars, however these actives will have wider impacts on beneficial insects. To aid

actives reaching the target caterpillars, high water volumes are required to penetrate the canopy.

Help identifying beet moth is available through the BBRO Plant Clinic and we encourage you to use this service as this pest is a developing issue and we are keen to gather information in its spread and impact. Please speak to your Contract Manager if you are considering the use of insecticides for beet moth control.

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 6a: Pre-flowering weed beet Figure 6b: 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.



Figure 7: BCN clearly visible on roots

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](#)



EVENTS

Autumn BeetField events: 27th – 29th August. Details to follow.



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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.