Seed Treatments Explained

This year we see increased importance for quick establishment and an added consideration in variety selection from an array of seed treatments.

There will be an option of seed technologies supplied by Germains. These will be Xbeet Plus and Xbeet Enrich®.

Xbeet Plus was launched in 2013 and combines Germains’ Xbeet priming with a specific pellet technology. This provides increased stress tolerance, faster and more uniform emergence and increased yield potential.

Xbeet Enrich® is a new product from Germains that is a combination of an elicitor treatment and a new pellet. The elicitor is recognised by the plant and sets in motion a physiological response that Germains state ‘protects against pathogenic fungi and bacteria, and abiotic stresses such as drought, heat and cold.’ This should result in improved stress tolerance, stronger plants, better leaf coverage and faster emergence.

The BBRO were involved in trials, independently analysed by NIAB which demonstrated an average yield increase of 1.3% in small plot trials and 4.4% increase in strip trials with Xbeet Enrich®.

Standard Fungicides

As before, all seed will be treated with Thiram and Tachigaren (Hymexazol), these fungicides protect the seedlings from seed- and soil-borne diseases which cause Damping off and Black leg.

Please note that Thiram will not be available for use in Spring 2020, so ensure you only order sufficient seed for the 2019 crop.

Additional Fungicides
There will be a further option for *Vibrance SB* which contains sedaxane, fludioxonil and metalaxyl-M. This product controls a wide range of soil-borne diseases in sugar beet including Rhizoctonia, *Pythium* spp. and *Phoma*. In higher risk situations such as soils which are prone to sit wet, compacted soils, more acidic soils (pH <6.5) and where maize is grown in the rotation, the use of *Vibrance SB* may provide a more comprehensive level of control of seed and soil-borne diseases.

However, the incidence of these diseases is strongly influenced by weather conditions after drilling and in many cases difficult to predict.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fungicide</th>
<th>Seed-Borne</th>
<th>Pyramid spp.</th>
<th>Aphanomyces</th>
<th>Fusarium</th>
<th>Rhizoctonia</th>
<th>Phoma</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Phoma</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thiram</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tachigaren</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vibrance SB</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

( ) denotes no label claim

**Additional Insecticides**

With the loss of neonicotinoids the largest change to seed treatments will be in available insecticides. There will only be one option, the pyrethroid *Force ST* (Tefluthrin) which is the remaining active ingredient of the previous CruiserForce that growers will be familiar with. This product will control a number of pests which attack sugar beet seedlings including springtails, symphylids, millipedes and pygmy beetle but as it is not systemmic it does not control aphid vectors of beet yellows viruses or leaf miners.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Insecticide</th>
<th>Springtails</th>
<th>Symphylids</th>
<th>Millipedes</th>
<th>Pygmy Beetle</th>
<th>Wireworm</th>
<th>Aphid vectors/Virus yellows</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Force ST</td>
<td>****</td>
<td>****</td>
<td>****</td>
<td>****</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Disposal of neonicotinoid treated seed**

Products containing clothianidin, imidacloprid and thiamethoxam were withdrawn from sale on the 19 September 2018 with usage date terminating on the 19 December 2018. Therefore, seed treated with any of these products must not be used after this date. Please dispose of any remaining neonicotinoid treated seed according to regulation guidelines. For further details of the products included, please see the HSE website:

[https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKHSE/bulletins/2069c4b](https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKHSE/bulletins/2069c4b)
Join the BBRO Team at one of the following events:

**Demonstration Farms.** The autumn programme includes sessions on:
- Harvesting and storage
- Seed varieties
- Crop nutrition
- Fungicides & insecticides
  - 4th December Askham Bryan College 13:45 - 15:30
  - 5th December Bracebridge 13:30 - 15:30

**Drill Training.** For contractors and drill operators, programme includes:
- Practical soil management
- Cultivation techniques for the perfect seed bed
- Pelleting and seeds
- Drill maintenance for optimum performance
  - 4th December Askham Bryan College 8:30 - 12:30
  - 24th January Morley Farms 8:30 - 12:30

**BBRO Winter Technical Events**

- 5th February - Newmarket Racecourse
- 7th February - Belton Woods

**Book via BBRO website** [www.bbro.co.uk/events](http://www.bbro.co.uk/events)

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**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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