



Virus Yellows - the 2019 virus yellows forecast is high and reflects the potential impact of the mild winter on aphid populations. The forecast (see table below) highlights the potential level of virus at the end of August from three drilling dates in the northern and eastern regions.

Region	Virus Yellows (%) on Sowing Dates of			Mean temperature
	15 March	30 March	15 April	
East (Bury, Cantley, Wissington)	29.9	39.5	54.3	5.28°C
North (Newark)	22.0	31.2	47.00	4.60°C

Note: Always ensure that you drill when conditions are right to ensure good establishment. Drilling in poor soil conditions could impact on future growth.

This is the first time in 25 years that neonicotinoid seed treatments have not been used to protect the crop and although this forecast is in the **absence** of any subsequent aphicides, timely applications of such treatments, good crop hygiene, crop monitoring and ensuring the crop reaches the 12-leaf stage as quickly as possible will all be crucial in minimising virus risk in 2019.



IN BRIEF

- The 2019 virus yellows forecast is **high** and shows the consequence of the mild winter and the exceptionally warm conditions experienced at the end of February
- Aphid (including *Myzus persicae*) activity continues to be reported, on-farm hygiene remains essential to remove potential sources of virus as a **priority**

- Drilling: after a brief period of warmth, temperatures are back to normal levels with some cold temperatures forecast over the next 8 days. From a bolting perspective, our advice is to **proceed with caution** and only where conditions are right. Check the weather forecast for your area
- Make sure that any early drilled varieties are **NOT** listed as unsuitable for drilling BEFORE mid-March on the Recommended List
- Ensure you have variety and seed stock traceability in the field
- Ensure you drill into moisture – adjust settings accordingly



Photo : BBRO team drilling in 2018. We will commence drilling shortly – subject to soil/weather conditions



ADVISORY

Sources of virus - the risk of virus infection will also be influenced by a range of factors and despite some frosts, aphids have been able to over-winter and are being found in crops such as oilseed rape or volunteer potatoes. From previous experience, any crops grown near to winter OSR can be at higher risk of aphid colonisation.

It is vital to remove sources of plant material which may already be infected, providing sites for infection and spread into crops.

Check spoil heaps and any beet piles left on farm for leaf growth and destroy (or deliver). Check for groundkeepers and target herbicide programmes to control these.

Soil temperatures - tracking of live soil temperature monitoring locations, shows soil temperatures have continued to increase with most now registering above 5°C. Germination of seed will start at 3°C but will be slow below 5°C. We recommend that you take some soil temperature measurements at 5-10cm depth to check your own soil temperatures. There may be field-specific variation, depending on soil type, aspect and topography.

Bolting - early drilled crops are at a greater risk of bolting, especially in areas where soils will remain colder for longer such as the Fen peats and Lincolnshire Wolds.

Remember that bolting is triggered by accumulated low temperatures, and not by specific low temperature events. This applies from the start of germination through to June.

Early drilled varieties – where drilling, ensure you use a variety which is at lower risk of bolting and not listed on the 2019 Recommended List as unsuitable for drilling before mid-March. Varieties listed as **not suitable** for drilling before mid March are: Sabatina KWS, Salamanca KWS, Hornet, Springbok, BTS1140, Cantona KWS, BTS 860, Degas and Philina KWS.

Different varieties - make sure different varieties are marked up as you drill them. This is important to allow you to identify any issues as well as assessing them for herbicide, aphicide and fungicide application. Keep a copy of the blue certification label on each pack of seed so you also have this as a traceability reference.

Cultivations

Dry soil conditions maybe frustrating when wanting to start drilling. Use this opportunity to tackle final cultivations of any seedbeds that aren't desirable. With surface conditions being dry, leveling and incorporating dry soil will allow seedbed moisture to be optimised.

Tip: Be careful not to work seedbeds too finely

Photo: Intermediate tillage of sugar beet field, area on left has been pressed



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

BeetTech19

For those of you that missed or would like a reminder of the BeetTech19 events please see <https://bbro.co.uk/our-news-opinions/our-news/news-2019/beettech19/> for the presentations and audio.

BBRO and AHDB GreatSoils event – 14th May. Terrington area.
More details to follow.

Morley Innovation Event – 20th June. Morley Farms.
Join BBRO and many others at this event, which will be crammed to the hilt with agricultural innovation and know-how. More details to follow.

Summer Open Days

Tuesday 2nd July Fotheringhay, Peterborough. PE8 5HZ
Thursday 4th July Thelveton Estate, Diss. IP21 4HP
Book now:

<https://bbro.co.uk/events/>



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

Two NRoSO points in total (not per bulletin) have been allocated between 01/06/2018 and 31/05/2019 reference NO465447f. To claim these points please email NRoSOC PD@cityandguilds.com