



IN BRIEF

- An emergency authorisation had been received for the use of the insecticide Biscaya this season to help control aphids (see notes below)
- Recent rain has slowed drilling progress in some areas, but drier conditions are set to return and should not hamper progress too much
- Crops drilled in the second half of March are now emerging. Monitor growth stages carefully for herbicide application and remember to apply any outstanding nitrogen fertiliser once the crop is fully emerged



ADVISORY

Virus-carrying aphid control

- BBRO are awaiting confirmation of the final conditions of the emergency authorisation of Biscaya for the control of virus-carrying aphids in 2019.
- The technical details of the authorisation will be published in the BBRO Bulletin as soon as available.
- For this season, this will provide growers with up to three sprays to control aphids (one spray of the previously approved flonicamid (Teppeki) and up to two applications of thiacloprid (Biscaya)). These treatments must only be applied at the recognised threshold of one green wingless aphid per four plants before the 12-leaf stage.
- No aphids have been reported to date and the BBRO yellow water pan network, which this year will be operated from 60 sites, will start on 18th April.
- Aphid updates and maps will be available via the BBRO Bulletins and the website.



Photo: winged and wingless *Myzus persicae*

Rolling

It is difficult to provide a general recommendation for rolling, as this depends very much on individual field conditions. Every field is different and the recent rain may have improved some soil conditions. As soils dry out again, it is worth considering rolling if seedbeds on heavy soils are poor

and cloddy as this will improve the seed/soil contact. Also rolling can help if planting depth is poor and seed has been left on the surface. However, don't roll if heavy rain is forecast.

Pre-emergence herbicides

The use of a pre-emergence herbicide will give you some flexibility regarding the timing of your first post-emergence spray- important if spray opportunities are limited due to poor ground conditions or work capacity issues. It may also help avoid herbicide damage by being able to spray in optimum conditions and when plants are more developed and less susceptible to damage.

If blackgrass is expected, then pre-emergence options such as ethofumesate are worth considering.

Recent rain will improve the efficacy of pre-emergence herbicides but will also encourage the growth of weeds. Monitor fields carefully to ensure optimum timing of application but don't let weeds get too large before treating.



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.

BeetField19 - 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/>



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