



## IN BRIEF

- Most areas are now into the final 10% of drilling. Whilst recent rain has helped to relieve dry seed beds a few remain dry and cobbly in places
- If drilling into fields with a poor seedbed or areas of poor seedbeds such as headlands, consider using a higher seed rate. Rolling of cloddy seedbeds may also be a consideration
- Many earlier drilled crops are now emerging and will require post-emergence herbicides soon. Careful monitoring of crop and weed growth stages, alongside weather conditions is required to give best control whilst minimising the risk of any check on crop growth
- Apply any outstanding nitrogen fertiliser once the crop is fully emerged to ensure there is enough nitrogen for early leaf growth. Do not delay with this, as this can compromise early canopy development
- The BBRO aphid monitoring programme is now starting with sixty yellow water pan traps being put out in fields across the beet growing area. The Emergency Authorisation for Biscaya comes into effect on the 18<sup>th</sup> April.



## ADVISORY

### Adjusting seed rates

Some of the remaining land to be drilled is dry, with seedbeds becoming cloddy creating poor seed to soil contact, and more variable planting depths.

Consider increasing the seed rate in areas where the seedbed is poor as establishment is likely to be lower. This is frequently the case on headlands but also on some of the heavier land which has produced cloddy seedbeds. For example, if the expected establishment is likely to be 70% rather than 80%, increasing the seed rate from 1.25 units/ha to 1.4 units/ha will compensate.

A full range of seed rates and spacings based on different expected establishment values were published in the last BBRO Advisory Bulletin and can also be found in the BBRO Reference Book ([www.bbro.co.uk/publications](http://www.bbro.co.uk/publications)).

### Post- emergence herbicides

Where a pre-emergence herbicide was used, recent rain will have helped with efficacy and sensitised some weeds for post-emergence sprays. As beet crops emerge, choosing appropriate products and doses for the current stage of beet development is key. Minimum beet growth stages for different products range from: no restrictions, expanded cotyledons, 1<sup>st</sup> pair of true leaves at least 1cm long to 1<sup>st</sup> pair of true leaves fully expanded. Paying attention to these will minimise any checks on your crops.

Also, consider the weed spectrum and maximum weed growth stage when selecting your actives and rates. Remember that many proprietary products such as Betanal maxx Pro may contain several different actives.

Target early emerging weeds such as knotgrass, ivy leaved speedwell, charlock and runch as soon as possible, as some of these weeds when developed beyond the cotyledon/early true leaf stage can become difficult to control.

## Actives for post-emergence mixes

Active(s)	Product examples	Strengths
ethofumesate	Efeckt, Ethosat 500, Obilix 500	Cleavers, Knotgrass, Black bindweed
lenacil	Venzar 500SC	Brassica species, Black bindweed, Knotgrass
metamitron	Bettix Flo SC, Goltix 70SC	Mayweeds, Knotgrass, Small nettle, Fat-hen, Annual meadow grass
phenmedipham	Betasana SC, Beetup Flo	Black bindweed, Fat-hen, Charlock, Ivy-leaved speedwell
triflusalufuron-methyl	Debut, Shiro	Brassicacae, Fool's parsley, Cleavers, Mayweeds
desmedipham + phenmedipham	Beetup Compact SC, Betanal Turbo, Rifle	desmedipham is useful in dry, cold conditions
clopyralid	Dow Shield 400, Vivendi 200	Volunteer potatoes, Thistles, Mayweeds
metamitron + quinmerac	Goltix Titan	Cleavers, Speedwell, Poppy, Small nettle

For more detailed information refer to the BBRO website: [www.bbro/publications](http://www.bbro/publications)

### Spray safe! Herbicide damage can delay canopy development significantly

- Check crop growth stages especially where more than one variety is due to be sprayed
- Mark-up different varieties in fields and let your agronomist and spray operator know.
- Follow guideline on adjuvants. Watch oil rates, especially mineral oils
- Check all tank mix recommendations
- Be extra-careful on crops under stress, such as in periods of rapid growth, high temperatures (especially substantial day to night changes), frost and wind damage, high light intensity and when crops are suffering from manganese deficiency.
- When the risk is high, consider spraying in either the early morning or evening

### Nitrogen fertiliser

Remember to ensure that there is 30-40kg/ha of nitrogen fertiliser available at, or soon after drilling. This is important to support early leaf growth. The remaining balance of nitrogen should be applied at full emergence. Don't delay in applying this. Remember to tailor your total nitrogen to the soil nitrogen supply index, especially where organic manures and/or cover crops have been grown. A soil sample for determining the soil mineral nitrogen (SMN) can help.

## Major Nutrient Recommendations (Kg/Ha)

Soil Index		0	1	2	3	4	5
Nitrogen	Mineral soils	120	120	100	80	0	0
	Organic soils					40	0
	Peaty soils						0

### Virus-carrying aphid control

- The emergency authorisation of Biscaya for the control of virus-carrying aphids in 2019 becomes effective on the 18<sup>th</sup> April
- The technical details of the authorisation will not be released until after the 18<sup>th</sup> and will be circulated to you asap
- 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.
- The BBRO yellow water pan network, which this year will be operated from 60 sites, is currently being deployed and monitoring will commence once in place.



- There are already reports of aphid activity on other crops, but it is important that we use the information from the yellow water pan network as well as assessing aphid numbers in crops to ensure that you plan insecticide applications most effectively.
- Check out the new aphid mapping system on the BBRO website <https://bbro.co.uk/on-farm/aphid-survey-map/>



## 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** – 14<sup>th</sup> May. Terrington area.  
More details to follow.

**Morley Innovation Event** – 20<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> July Fotheringhay, Peterborough. PE8 5HZ

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July Thelveton Estate, Diss. IP21 4HP

Book now: <https://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](mailto: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 [NRoSOPD@cityandguilds.com](mailto:NRoSOPD@cityandguilds.com)