



Issued: 25/04/19



## IN BRIEF

- Warm weather has raised soil temperatures to between 10 and 14°C, resulting in rapid germination. Many crops are now marking the rows with the more advanced at 2-4 leaf stage. However, seedbeds remain dry and forecasted rain is much needed to drive further growth.
- **NEW** – Aphid mapping tool available on BBRO website <https://bbro.co.uk/on-farm/aphid-survey-map/> Aphid numbers are beginning to increase but with very few crops above threshold. However, this may change quickly so it is important to check crops regularly as well as keeping an eye on the BBRO website. No virus has been detected in any of the winged aphids caught so far.
- Most crops have received herbicides, but rain will encourage a flush of weeds so don't delay in any initial applications and remain vigilant for the need for any follow up. No reports of herbicide damage but be wary of increased susceptibility in rapidly growing crops.
- Several reports of insect and bird damage to emerging crops with shot-holing symptoms linked to flea beetle and cotyledons lost to bird grazing. Rapid growing conditions will allow crops to recover and grow-away from the symptoms in most cases.



## ADVISORY

### Aphid watch

Following the warm Easter period, the first reports of winged aphid activity have been received across all factory areas with *Myzus persicae*, *Macrosiphum euphorbiae* and *Aphis fabae* all being identified in the field. The maps of winged *M. persicae* activity, collected from the yellow water pan network, are now accessible on the BBRO website and is being updated regularly. All aphids caught to date have also been tested for virus and so far the good news is that none have been found to be carrying BMV or BYV.

Please remember that the spray threshold is one green wingless aphid per four plants and until now very few crops have reached this level of colonisation. Continue to monitor your crops for green wingless aphids (see photo 1) and only spray once this threshold has been breached. Usually aphids can be found on the heart leaves, within folds at leaf margins and on the underside of leaves.

Check our website for the BBRO aphid special bulletin from last week and the details of the Biscaya EA (<https://bbro.co.uk/our-news-opinions/our-news/>)

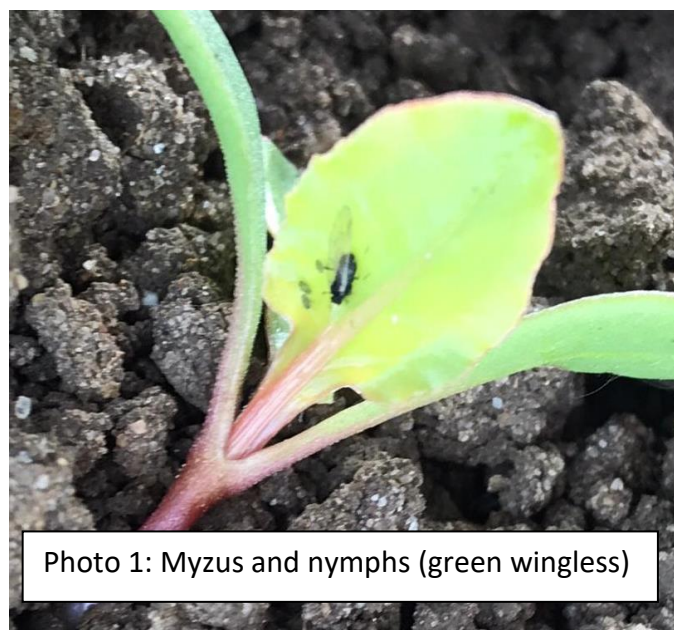


Photo 1: Myzus and nymphs (green wingless)

### Other pest issues

Other pests are making a presence too, again encouraged by recent warm weather. To date, these reports of damage are sporadic but often linked to flea beetle attacks, with



Photo 2: flea beetle and bird damage

the characteristic shot holing of leaves. It is expected that most crops will be able to grow away from such damage, especially with recent rain, although if damage is excessive and beetles are widely present then pyrethroid treatments are available and are highlighted in the BBRO Reference book. However, any use of pyrethroids will have an impact on beneficial insects and will not control aphids due to their resistance to these products, so careful thought must be given before making such decisions to assess the wider implications for the crop.

The dry weather may also be affecting the efficacy of Force seed treatments as reports of seedling damage and plant loss from soil pests have been received. Rain is needed to activate these treatments.

Bird damage is also been reported, again not helped by the dry conditions. As long as the growing point has not been removed the beet should be able to grow away from the damage.

### Fertiliser

- Make sure fully emerged crops have had their final nitrogen applications
- Don't forget to apply manganese, especially on light land and to the more advanced rapidly growing crops



## EVENTS

### 1. BBRO and AHDB event

#### GREATSOILS SUGAR BEET SPECIAL

Join us on 14<sup>th</sup> May Tebbs South, Terrington PE34 4PP 9:30 – 11:30.  
Details and booking via <https://bbro.co.uk/events/>

2. BBRO will be joining NIAB for their **STAR Open Day** on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May Stanaway Farm, Otley, IP6 9NA 10:00 – 13:00. Further details: <https://bbro.co.uk/events/>
3. **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. Further details: <https://tmaf.co.uk/morley-innovation-day/>
4. **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/>



## CONTACTS

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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)