Advisory Bulletin



Issued: 9th October 2019

Ö IN BRIEF

- Where wet weather has interrupted or changed harvest plans, ensure you are lifting in-line with fungicide harvest interval.
- Increasing levels of rust and cercospora leaf spot may require a further fungicide application. Do not confuse third generation leaf miner damage with foliar disease. Check with the BBRO Plant Clinic if necessary.
- Check for root rots such violet root rot, fusarium and rhizoctonia. If found, prioritise these crops for early lifting as disease is likely to be progressive.
- When selecting crops for later harvest dates, consider factors such as canopy vigour and growth habit and varietal susceptibility to foliar diseases to exploit late season yield potential.
- Harvest losses. Continue to monitor for over-crowning. Check root breakage levels where more aggressive cleaning has been needed to remove soil. Prioritise delivery of crops in relation to root damage or root rots.
- Crop hygiene. Start as you mean to go on. Make sure beet heaps are cleared away completely and any leaf growth on spoil heaps is controlled. This is essential to remove potential sources of aphids and virus for the next crop in 2020. Suction trap data show that the autumn aphid migration has started.

ADVISORY

Fungicides – third application and spraying/lifting intervals.

Rain has alleviated the earlier issues of root breakage but progressively wet conditions has now interrupted best laid harvest plans for many, with a move to harvesting more lighter land to keep factories supplied. Where harvest plans have changed, keep a watch on fungicide harvest interval. Most crops will have received a second fungicide, but you need to watch crops destined for later harvesting carefully, to assess the need for a third fungicide. Remember to check the varietal rust susceptibility rating to help with this decision. Don't let the interval between applications become too large, allowing diseases to establish. Target 28 days.

Last season we saw an average uplift in yield of 9% in the fields of the BYC entrants receiving three sprays, compared to crops receiving two fungicides. This was on broadly similar soil types with similar harvest dates.

Keep a watch on harvest fungicide intervals for any recent fungicide treated crops, especially where crops were originally planned for later lifting. Depending on the fungicides applied, harvest intervals range from 21-36 days.

Prioritising crop

A healthy and fuller canopy will provide more protection against frost damage, particularly to the root crown. On-going BBRO work is also showing that crops with fuller canopies with less leaf senescence (yellow and brown leaves at the base of the plant) and lower foliage disease levels have more potential to increase yield during this period. A more upright canopy growth habit is also associated with better light interception and potential autumn yield increase.



Photo 1. A more upright canopy (left) is considered to have more yield potential than a prostrate canopy (right) in the autumn.



Take time to check below the surface before lifting. Any crop showing signs of root rot should be lifted first and any lifted beet showing signs of damage should be prioritised for early delivery.

Photo2. Root rot.

Monitoring for harvesting losses:

Crowning

If you find over crowned beet, assess how much top is remaining in the overall sample before you speak to your harvester operator to request alterations. Crops with low population rates tend to have variable root sizes which will lead to a greater range of crowning height. If this is the case, then some over-crowning will need to be accepted.

Account for cleaner loaders and length of storage when assessing how much 'Top' can be left by the harvester.

Storage Sites

With wet conditions it is especially important to choose storage sites carefully for both conventional or Maus clamps. Try to maintain a flat surface with minimal wheeling to ensure effective loading and reduced losses.



Surface Losses

Wet conditions can often lead to increased beet losses on the surface, check the following:

- To reduce soil tare, turbine gates are often lifted but it's important to balance soil removal with beet retention.
- If beet are in wet or loose in the ground, the scalping knives and combs can push them over before lifting has occurred. Ensure minimal down pressure to the scalping knives to reduce this.

• If the harvester is set for shallow lifting (in an effort to reduce soil tare), it is important to check roots are being lifted whole and large beet are not being sliced below the soil surface.

EVENTS

BBRO Drill training – limited spaces available.

3rd December, Riseholme College, Lincs. and 21st January, BBRO Bexwell.

Details available https://bbro.co.uk/media/50115/20-drill-training-advert.jpg



Theme: 'S'trait talking. Details: <u>https://bbro.co.uk/media/50112/20-2-4-advert-1.jpg</u>

CONTACTS

British Beet Research Organisation, Innovation Centre, Norwich Research Park, Colney Lane, Norwich, NR4 7GJ **Dr Mark Stevens** mark.stevens@bbro.co.uk 07712 822194 **Dr Simon Bowen** simon.bowen@bbro.co.uk 07718 422717 **Stephen Aldis** <u>stephen.aldis@bbro.co.uk</u> 07867 141705 **General Enquiries** <u>info@bbro.co.uk</u>

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