



Issued: 2nd April 2020



IN BRIEF

GOOD NEWS:

‘Emergency approval for Biscaya (thiacloprid) has been granted for two applications (2 x 0.3l/ha) for the English sugar beet crop from 2nd – April to 31st July. Please refer to the BBRO/HSE websites for further information concerning the specific details of use’

This is really good news, particularly after the concerning high 2020 Virus Yellows forecast and the predicted early flight of aphids (published in the last Advisory Bulletin). Further details available: <https://bbro.co.uk/our-news-opinions/our-news/news-2020/emergency-authorisation-biscaya/>

- As land rapidly dries, good progress is being made with drilling across the UK beet area on all but the heavier soils types. These will still need some patience before drilling can commence. Colder weather has reduced soil temperatures, which in many cases are 4-6°C and germination is slow.
- As soils dry, remember to keep a close watch on seed spacing and depth, ideally placing seed into contact with moisture. Be wary of drilling deeper than 5cm in cold soils.
- Mark up where different varieties have been drilled as you go. Make sure fields drilled with Smart Janninka KWS (**CONVISO**® **SMART** system) are clearly identified and ensure the drill is thoroughly emptied before changing to other varieties.
- It remains important to continue to ensure all potential sources of virus (and aphids) are eliminated on your farm before aphids start arriving in large numbers.
- We will be starting the 2020 aphid monitoring programme on the 14th April (the earliest date since its inception in 1990) to ensure we identify any early aphid arrivals and their offspring. However, due to the COVID-19 situation the yellow water pan network will be operated slightly differently this year. More details will be announced in the next bulletin but rest assured regular aphid updates will be available on the BBRO website.



Drilling checklist

- Seed spacing should be checked regularly whilst drilling, adjusting if necessary. Poor seed spacing will be obvious at early stages of establishment, so remember to go back and check you got it right.
- Plant establishment is frequently lower on headland and parts of the field where seedbeds are poor, especially where cloddy. This is often associated with changes in soil type. Higher seed rates should be considered in these areas.
- Plan to drill different varieties as distinct blocks rather than mixing varieties across drill units. This will allow you monitor and manage different varieties appropriately. This may be important for application of herbicides and fungicides as well as at harvesting.

Drilling depth

- Before drilling starts, set all units to the same depth. Seed should be placed into moist soil, ideally drilled between 2cm and 3cm deep. Check drilling depth regularly as it will vary within fields as well as between each field.
- Drilling depth should be increased in dry conditions to ensure seed is placed into moist soil. However, be wary of drilling deeper than 5cm, especially in cold soils.
- Ensure that all seed is well covered to help to avoid mouse damage.

Depth vs down pressure

With more drills now available with spring or hydraulic down pressure, understanding when to adjust depth and pressure is crucial to maximise drill performance.

- Depth should be set to desired depth – ideally to find moisture.
- Pressure should be adjusted secondary, to allow row unit to achieve desired depth consistently.
- If soil conditions change and therefore reduce the penetration of the coulter, you will need to increase down pressure.
- Increasing depth will not increase penetration, it will only lead to greater variation in seed depth.
- Only change depth when moisture depth changes or a different seed depth is required
- Excessive down pressure will also have a negative effect, so ensure only enough down pressure is applied.

Clod pushers

- In dry soil conditions increase penetration depth and soil movement by adding extra weights or adjusting the depth control.
- If conditions are damp, reduce soil movement by decreasing soil depth or totally remove from soil.



End of a long day drilling BBRO trials in Lincolnshire



First signs of germination in crop drilled 10 days ago in Suffolk

- Herbicides: it won't be long before first pre and post-em herbicides will need to be applied. This season we will be running a campaign to help you reduce the risk of herbicide damage, allowing crops to establish and develop canopy as quickly as possible. Watch out for herbicide information and the latest **Brilliant Basics** message in the next Advisory Bulletin or on the BBRO website <https://bbro.co.uk/on-farm/brilliant-basics/>



EVENTS

Regrettably, in light of the COVID-19 situation we have taken the decision to **cancel our BBRO BeetField events in July**. These were scheduled for the 7th and 9th July. We will be organising alternative ways of sharing the planned information from these events with you.

We are here to help so please keep in touch.



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BASIS POINTS

Two BASIS points in total (not per bulletin) have been allocated for the period between 01/06/19 and 31/05/20 reference **CP/84954/1920/g**. To claim these points please email michele@basis-reg.co.uk

Two NRoSO points in total (not per bulletin) have been allocated between 01/06/2019 and 31/05/2020 reference **NO466952f**. To claim these points please email NRoSOPD@cityandguilds.com