



Issued: 13th March 2020



IN BRIEF

Welcome to the first BBRO Bulletin of the year

- After such a long, wet winter, land is eventually beginning to dry out, soil temperatures are on the rise and the possibility of drilling is now a reality on light land
- Check land is sufficiently dry at cultivation depth to reduce risk of smearing and compaction
- Whilst the risk of bolting is very much reduced, remember to drill your less sensitive varieties first, reducing the risk of any late cold spells on more sensitive varieties
- Remember to mark up where you drill different varieties. This especially important for Smart Janninka KWS as part of the **CONVISO**® **SMART** system
- Have your check list for drill set and calibration on hand. Use the BBRO Brilliant Basic 2 and operators drilling guide
- The 2020 Virus Yellows forecast indicates that following the very mild winter, an early flight of aphids is expected and very high levels of virus in crops where no control measures are adopted
- It is therefore very important that all potential sources of virus are eliminated on your farm. Aphid activity (on weeds and remaining beet for lifting) is currently being found on farm



ADVISORY

Soil Conditions

The forecast for the next week looks relatively dry and warm. On lighter land, this will create an opportunity for land cultivation and for making a start to drilling. Soil temperatures are generally in the range of 5-8°C. Heavier land is clearly going to need longer to dry and will be colder. Patience will be required.

Remember seed requires the temperature to be above 5°C for germination to occur. Drilling into warming soils will encourage rapid germination and help improve plant establishment and early canopy development. Think about drilling date in terms of thermal days rather than calendar days.

Drill Checklist

Before drilling, take the opportunity to calibrate the drill and tractor. Pay attention to:

- Forward speed and spacing settings
- Steering systems
- Row shut off
 - Wheels and Weights – Drilling and cultivation
- Remove any unnecessary weight
- Reduce ground pressure where possible (including tyre pressure)
- Select appropriate tractor size for the task in hand



Soil moisture will still be high as the profile begins to dry so ensure any wheelings are managed, avoid excess wheelings and check effective loosening of soil if trying to remove them.

During drilling, be prepared to check settings as conditions change, this maybe within the same field.

- Regularly check spacing, depth and covering of seed
- Adjust depth, pressure and forward speed depending on seed bed quality
- Press wheels and seed firmers can be used to improve seed-to-soil contact, ensure components run free and clean so as not to disturb seed placement.

Check out Brilliant Basic 2 message. More details available via:

<https://bbro.co.uk/on-farm/brilliant-basics/>



2020 Virus Yellows forecast

Remember that this forecast is based on **no** aphid control measures being deployed. The exceptionally warm temperatures over the winter period have significantly increased the risk of virus in 2020 crops. The forecast below gives the expected percentage of Virus Yellows in crops in relation to three drilling dates. The risk increases at later drilling dates as the main aphid migration occurs when plants are smaller and more susceptible to virus infection. From current predictions aphids are anticipated to start flying from as early as the 24th March. Vigilance will be crucial.

	15 th March	30 th March	15 th April	Mean temperature (Jan-Feb)
East (Bury, Cantley, Wissington)	71.9	82.2	91.4	6.53°C
North (Newark)	79.6	88.5	95.3	6.51°C

The 2019 Virus Yellows forecast indicated that between 22% and 54% of the crop would be affected by Virus Yellows in the absence of any control measures. The actual 2019 situation showed that although 55% of crops had shown symptoms of virus the overall level in crops was 1.8%.

The carefully targeted use of foliar insecticides (Teppeki and Biscaya) had a very important role in reducing the level, particularly the secondary spread of virus in many crops. BBRO will be keeping you fully briefed on aphid numbers, threshold levels and insecticide options. The yellow water pan network will be established soon as an early warning system of WINGED aphids arriving in your crops.

Make sure you keep checking both the BBRO website and further regular Advisory Bulletins throughout the season for information. Timing of insecticide application was shown to be key in 2019 and this will be even more important in 2020. Full Aphid data with site specific results will be available via the BBROplus, ensure you register for access now (<https://plus.bbroy.co.uk/on-farm/member-area/>)

At this early stage of the season, it is important to ensure you focus on reducing potential sources of aphids and virus. Check soil heaps and any remaining beet piles left on the farm and destroy (or deliver).



EVENTS

Dates for your diary

BeetField20

7th July Wallington Hall, Downham Market. PE33 0EP

9th July Bloxholm Lane, Bracebridge LN4 2H



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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