Advisory Bulletin



Issued: 30th October 2020

IN BRIEF

British Beet

- Episode 2 of BBRO BeetCast to be released on 1st October
- Whilst virus levels remain relatively stable, symptoms have intensified as infected leaves progressively senesce and die.
- Levels of cercospora have increased rapidly in some areas resulting in a lot of dead leaf material.
- Each crop needs to be assessed individually and prioritised for harvest according to virus and disease infection levels. Where harvest plans change, make sure you observe fungicide harvest intervals, ensuring gap is not too long.
- Rust levels are also increasing in crops so target further yield production by protecting green and relatively healthy canopies with fungicides.
- Check for root rots such violet root rot, fusarium & rhizoctonia. If found, prioritise these crops for early lifting as disease is likely to be progressive. Do not store.
- During harvesting, cleaning, and loading keep checking that smaller root loss is minimal to reduce the risk of these acting as potential sources of virus/disease for next season.
- As campaign progresses, continue to practice good crop hygiene. Make sure beet heaps are cleared away completely and any leaf growth on spoil heaps controlled. This is essential to removed potential sources of aphids and virus. Suction traps data in mid-Sept showed that aphids were active and numbers will potentially increase throughout October and November.

Ö ADVISORY

Canopy health

Most crops have received a second fungicide, but you need to carefully watch crops destined for later harvesting to assess the need for a third fungicide. Remember to check the varietal rust susceptibility rating to help with this decision. Do not let the interval between applications become too long, allowing diseases to establish (target 28 days) and check the harvest interval required for the products used.

Varieties and cercospora

On balance, where crops have retained a good level of green canopy and are destined for harvesting beyond December, a third spray will assist yields. However, where cercospora is present and progressive, the ability to control may be compromised due to resistance and insensitivity to fungicides. Crops will need to be monitored carefully to work out which one may have 'the legs' for being left. It is difficult to generalise on the use of a third fungicide where cercospora is active and you must check each individual crop.

The photographs below are for a broad guideline only.



1. Crop worth protecting







3. Protection unlikely to help

Unfortunately, as we have not seen large cercospora outbreaks in the UK previously, we do not have much uniform data to compare. We are currently assessing the RL (treated and untreated) trials. These should give us good information but not until later in the season when results have been processed by NIAB. Observations from the BYC last year showed that those varieties the good rust ratings that were selected for later harvest, fared better in the presence of cercospora infection. However, please appreciate that this is only a small and purely observational assessment and not a rigorous test of cercospora susceptibility.

Use the link below to view a short Autumn disease update from Prof. Mark Stevens <u>https://youtu.be/8ZhrLa2DiOg</u>

Crops that have recently recovered from the earlier dry conditions, with the canopy re-growing, may see a depression in sugar levels until the new canopy is able to replenish sugar in the root. Avoid harvesting these crops too soon, leaving for a few weeks after the regrowth has occurred if possible. This period will be determined by temperature and sunshine, with warm and sunny conditions allowing more photosynthesis to boost sugar production.

Harvesting 'watch-outs'

 Whilst weather conditions are very variable early lifting with warm temperatures can lead to increased sugar losses so keep storage time to a minimum



Pic 4. Bruising appearing within 24 hours

2. After a dry spring many crops had variable emergence, this will lead to uneven root size and crown height making consistent crowning difficult. Always remember cleaner loaders will also remove top allowing the harvester to leave more in order to prevent over crowning.



 Variable emergence can also lead to difficulties lifting small roots, ensure you check for both surface and subsurface losses to make sure maximum yield recovery.



Pic 5 (above) Uneven crown height means increased tops are unavoidablePic 6 (left) Cleaner loader will remove topPic 7 (below) Surface losses clearly visible



Variety selection for 2021

If selecting varieties for next season, remember to consider the following:

- Having a low bolting variety will allow you to start drilling early if conditions are good
- Consider the need for BCN tolerance. Have soil tested if unsure.
- Consider rust and powdery mildew disease ratings in areas where disease pressures may be higher: drier and warm conditions for powdery mildew and humid, warm conditions for rust.
- For crops you may want to leave for later harvesting in 2021/22, remember to consider that good foliar disease rating and canopy vigour are key. As a guide to canopy vigour, varieties that produced above average top weight across the BBRO Variety Demonstration strips sites in 2020 included: Daphna, Sabatina KWS, BTS 1915, Kortessa KWS, Sancha KWS, Cantona KWS & Lacewing.



Pic 8 More vigorous upright canopy



Pic 9 less prostrate canopy in BBRO variety strips

 Use the link below give you access to a video run-through of the 2021 RL using the BBRO Variety Demonstration strips at Park farm Thorney: https://youtu.be/Aw9Bj0fz9Uw

O EVENTS

NEW: Watch out for our 2nd episode of BBRO BeetCast released Thursday 1st October

A short podcast, with timely crop reminders, growers insight and snippets from BBRO research activities.

A link to BBRO BeetCast will be sent via email, text and available via: https://bbro.co.uk/publications/beetcast/



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