



Issued: 17th December 2020



Season's greetings from all at the BBRO.

Who could have imagined the ups and downs and challenges of 2020? With a virus epidemic both in and out of field, it has certainly not been easy. Our Advisory Bulletins you will know that the warm dry spring created many challenges, and the consequences of some of these are still ongoing, compounded by lock-downs and self-isolation. Our Advisory Bulletins highlighted the sequence of events starting with the very warm and dry spring followed by the unprecedented aphid migration into our crops. A summer drought and then severe cercospora infection across some regions continued the assault on yields. Providing advice and guidance throughout has been challenging but we are determined to build on our knowledge from the season. As 2021 is fast approaching, BBRO is just completing and compiling all the results from trials and test digs undertaken in 2020. Comprehensive step by step guidelines on how to reduce virus and cercospora infection in your crops in 2021 will be released early in the new year.

We will also be releasing a series of videos during our BeetTech week ahead of drilling to assist further with drilling operations and the control of virus, weeds and cercospora. Additionally, look out for the next edition of Beet Review in January which will also provide essential information ahead of 2021.

As you will be aware an application for a neonic based pellet treatment has been made. Rest assured that BBRO have been working hard behind the scenes, presenting robust science-based data with the aim to protect the sugar beet crop and reduce environmental impacts too.

Whilst we wait for announcements, we ask you all to make the most of the next couple of weeks to check your farm for possible over-wintering sites for pests and diseases. By tackling on-farm hygiene now you could help us to safeguard the industry in the future.

Follow our Brilliant Basic 5: Don't keep the virus alive and watch out for our spring campaign for the latest information, aimed at helping you to achieve the best possible beet crop in 2021 and if you haven't already listened to December's BeetCast which features grower Tom Clarke on using beneficial insects to protect the crop <https://bbro.co.uk/publications/beetcast/>

Brilliant Basic 5:

Don't keep **virus yellows** alive

British Beet

BBRO

Research Organisation

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

Farm hygiene is crucial in reducing sources of virus over the winter period and protecting your next beet crop. Virus Yellows can survive winter in aphids, infected beet material and other host plant species.

- minimise harvester losses** to reduce potential sources of regrowth
- monitor spoil heaps** and destroy any growth
- revisit fields regularly and **eliminate groundkeepers**
- stop aphids green-bridging** the virus by destroying winter cover crops at least 5 weeks before you drill
- control crop volunteers and virus-hosting weeds** with well-timed herbicides and cultivations



Know your **virus** hosts

#DontKeepVirusYellowsAlive

Infected sugar beet,
either groundkeepers or leaf material sprouting from clamps, is a major source of virus

Fodder and AD beet

are equally susceptible to Virus Yellows, therefore all beet species should be harvested ahead of drilling the next crop. Where this is not under your control, use your powers of persuasion or pass on this message!

Aphid hosts:

Myzus persicae has a large range of host plants. These include: brassicas, potatoes, legumes, lettuce and sugar beet

Weed hosts

BYV BMYV	
Common chickweed	Common chickweed
Common poppy	Common poppy
Corn spurry	Corn spurry
Red dead-nettle	Red dead-nettle
Common purslane	Scarlet pimpernel
Common orache	Corn marigold
Garden orache	Groundsel
	Shepherd's purse
	Field pansy



EVENTS

BeetTech21 Commencing 8th March with video releases followed by on-line discussion forum
Thursday 11th March 15:00.

Book via www.bbro.co.uk/events to ensure you don't miss the meeting details.



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Two BASIS points in total (not per bulletin) have been allocated for the period between 01/06/20 and 31/05/21 reference **CP/100686/2021/g**. To claim these points please email michele@basis-reg.co.uk

Two NRoSO points in total (not per bulletin) have been allocated between 01/06/2020 and 31/05/2021 reference **NO468433f**. To claim these points please email NRoSOPD@cityandguilds.com