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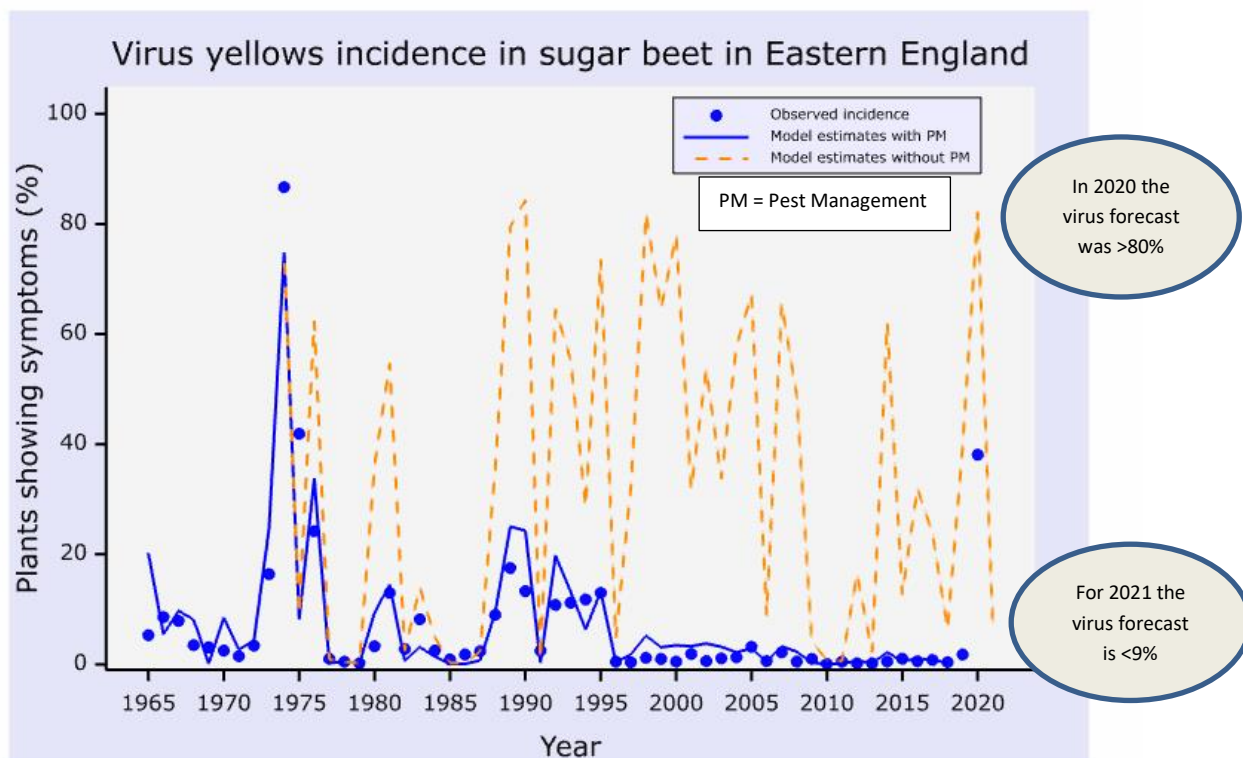


IN BRIEF

Virus Yellows Forecast 2021 and Vydate 10G update.

Cruiser SB will not be applied on seed in 2021

- With February temperatures fluctuating from very cold to unseasonably warm conditions, especially during the last three weeks of the month, this has meant the independent virus yellows forecast has been uncertain with regards to the 9% trigger threshold for the use of Cruiser SB on seed.
- **The 1st of March forecast predicts that 8.37 % of the national sugar beet area will be affected by virus yellows by the end of August 2021.** The graph below shows the 2021 forecast in a historical context, reinforcing the low virus forecast for this season.



Data kindly provided by Rothamsted Research.

- Under the terms of the emergency authorisation from HSE and DEFRA this means that the use of Cruiser SB has not been triggered and will not be applied to seed this season.
- The forecast also predicts that the date of first aphids arriving in crops will be from the 18th May. This is much later than when aphids were first recorded in crops in 2020 which was in late March.
- Clearly, the cold weather has had a significant impact on overwintering aphid populations, both reducing their numbers as well as the date of their migration into the 2021 crop. This is a very similar national forecast to that in 2018. Aphids were first recorded in crops in late May 2018. This is very welcome news for crops in 2021.
- Once seed is on farm, drilling into good seed beds, as soon as possible, will ensure crops establish quickly. Consequently, plants will be more mature, resilient, and resistant to the impact of virus when aphids finally arrive. Crops will still need to be monitored closely for aphids and for the appropriate thresholds to trigger any necessary foliar insecticides.
- BBRO will, as is usual, be monitoring crops and will have a network of yellow water pan traps to assess aphid numbers during 2021. This information will be available via the BBROplus website and reported regularly in the BBRO Advisory Bulletin.
- Some further news. An Emergency Authorisation for the use of Vydate 10G has been approved by the HSE (EA number 0536 of 2021) This is for the control of free-living nematodes (*Trichodorus*, *Paratrichodorus* spp and *Longidorus* spp) in sugar beet. The rate of use is 30g/100 m, for application at drilling up to the 30th April 2021.
- Use up end date: 30th April 2021.
- Disposal and storage end date: 31st May 2021.
- It is important that both the label and [nematicide stewardship scheme](#) conditions for use in sugar beet are fully adhered to. The Vydate 10g Stewardship scheme (A guide to best practice 2020/21) can be downloaded from the Corteva website.



ADVISORY

After such a long, wet winter, land is eventually beginning to dry out, and the possibility of drilling is now a reality on light land. However, check land is sufficiently dry at cultivation depth to reduce risk of smearing and compaction. Check soil temperatures as they are still low and subject to large fluctuations. Ideally, temperatures need to be consistently increasing before drilling early.

Make sure you mark-up different varieties and seed stocks carefully in each field to help you make subsequent decisions about foliar sprays of herbicides, insecticides, and fungicides. Avoid drilling before mid-March those varieties marked with a **red cross** on the

RL list to reduce bolting risk. Remember also to manage Conviso Smart seed carefully and drill Conviso Smart varieties after mid-March to reduce bolting risk.

There is existing approval for one foliar spray (Teppeki) and Emergency Authorisation applications for two more foliar products have been submitted. These applications are currently being processed and we will advise you on these as soon as we can. This should be well ahead of any application dates. The supply of these products has been planned.

It is important to remember that whilst the number of aphid vectors will be lower this season, there are still likely to be a considerable number of sources of virus on farm following the high levels in 2020. It remains critical therefore to ensure potential sources of virus are removed, especially before temperatures start to rise as we go into late spring and early summer. Groundkeepers, leaf growth on beet spoil and fodder beet heaps and particularly any energy/AD beet or unharvested sugar beet still in the ground will all be potentially key sources of virus (and foliar diseases such as cercospora too). As soon as the current difficult soil conditions allow, remove, or manage these virus-infected sources.



EVENTS

Book now for BeetTech21, our virtual winter conference for updates on Virus Yellows, weed control, seed bed preparation and drilling in current soil conditions and cercospora control. The event will commence with the release of 4 short videos on Monday 8th March and culminate in a live discussion on Thursday 11th March – please book to ensure you don't miss out.

<https://bbro.co.uk/events/>



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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 NRoSOC PD@cityandguilds.com