



Issued: 2nd June 2021



IN BRIEF

- As expected, warm temperatures over the bank holiday weekend have resulted in a growth surge in crops. Plants can produce a new leaf every 2-3 days when the daily average temperature is above 15°C.



Fig 1 & 2: What a difference five days can make (BBRO Demo site, Downham Market)

- Warmer temperatures are also encouraging aphids to fly, and an increase in aphid numbers is now being widely reported and recorded across the BBRO yellow water pan network, although regional differences are emerging. *Myzus persicae* (peach-potato aphid) are now being confirmed. Black bean and potato aphid are also present in crops but remember that *M. persicae* is the most important vector of virus yellows.
- Increasing reports of the wingless aphid threshold being reached. The situation is changing daily so make sure you check the very latest update on the [BBROplus website](#).



Fig 3: Wingless and winged peach potato aphids Myzus persicae

- The BBROplus map is a guide to where aphids are being identified but it is important to monitor your own crops and treat, if necessary, when at threshold. At this stage of the season, the threshold trigger for spraying is 1 green wingless aphid per 4 plants (3 green wingless aphids per 12 plants) up to the 12-leaf stage.
- As we are now entering a critical period, it is vital that crops are inspected closely and regularly and only treated when the threshold is reached. **Do not go too early.** Remember that we currently only have a two-spray programme (Teppeki followed by InSyst) so we need to use sprays effectively. With significant spray programmes on other crops, careful planning is required to ensure timings on beet crops are as timely as possible.
- An increase in slug activity has been seen and test baiting and control may be required, especially on a return to showery conditions.
- Leaf miner activity continues to be observed but most crops should grow away from first generation damage but continued vigilance for subsequent generations will be required.
- Localised reports of pygmy and flea beetle activity have also been reported.
- Grazing of some crops by pigeons is also affecting some growers too.



ADVISORY

Ethofumesate

Several reports of leaves sticking together, which are usually symptoms consistent with the use of herbicides such as ethofumesate, have been received. Again, in many situations, crops will grow away from this.



Fig 4: *Sticking leaves symptom, associated with the use of ethofumesate herbicides.*

Nutrition

The first signs of manganese deficiency are being observed, especially in more advanced rapidly growing crops. Crops on organic and light sandy soils will be the most susceptible to manganese deficiency. Make sure foliar nutrition is applied sufficiently early enough to minimise effect on canopy growth. Keep a close eye for other nutritional deficiencies as crops grow rapidly.



Fig 5: *Don't let manganese symptoms reach this stage before treatment.*



EVENTS

[Book now to secure your place at one of the BBRO summer events.](#) Limited spaces available.

BeetField21 Self-guided Demo Farm Tours



- Compare early performance of 2022 RL
- Virus incidence and project updates
- Drought resistance and impact of irrigation
- Future proofing sugar beet crop
- Mobile plant clinic
- Spotlight on cercospora



Also visit the support and advice hub to discuss current issues with the BBRO team

15th June: Thorney | 17th June: Bracebridge | 22nd June: Bexwell | 24th June: Diss

Limited spaces - 90 minutes per visit
Booking essential: www.bbro.co.uk/events
NRoSO and BASIS points available



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BASIS POINTS

Two BASIS points in total (not per bulletin) have been allocated for the period between 01/06/21 and 31/05/22 reference **CP/111958/2122/g**. To claim these points please email michele@basis-reg.co.uk

Two NRoSO points in total (not per bulletin) have been allocated between 01/06/2021 and 31/05/2022 reference **NO469403f**. To claim these points please email NRoSOC PD@cityandguilds.com