



Issued: June 18th 2021



IN BRIEF

- Crops continue to power away in the hot weather with many now at the 10-12 leaf stage. Lack of water is now limiting growth on lighter soils, but hopefully many will benefit from the thundery showers. Crops which are beginning to meet across drills are less attractive for migrating aphids but be mindful of checking slower developing and gappy areas of the crop for aphids as these remain attractive.
- From the 12th-leaf stage, sugar beet becomes an increasingly poor host for aphids and the number of progeny/young produced by winged adults' declines. This reduces secondary spread and infection with virus within the field. As many crops are now reaching this growth stage and aphids number are still relatively low in many areas, this is good news. However, remember that this is a gradual process and not a 'switch'.
- Continue to monitor crops that are just at or just past the 12-leaf stage as these may still need protecting. In particular, check crops that have not already been sprayed or are more than 15 days after their first spray. **The threshold for treatment at the 12- leaf stage onwards is one green wingless aphid per plant.**
- Aphid numbers have continued to increase over the last week, and this can be tracked on the BBRO YWP network which shows the migration moving northwards across the beet area. The situation is changing daily so make sure you check the very latest update on the [BBROplus website](#). Many crops in Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk have now exceeded the threshold and been sprayed with Teppeki, some receiving a second spray of Insyst. Monitoring has shown that this has been effective in reducing aphid numbers.



ADVISORY

What else is in your crop?

Ladybird and beneficials such as lacewings continue to build in crops in response to increasing aphid numbers and are providing some effective additional control. Teppeki (your first spray) is a targeted aphicide and much kinder on beneficials. Insyst (your second spray) is broader spectrum insecticide so monitor crops closely and only use this where necessary.

There are occasional reports of leaf miner damage and the presence of eggs in some crops, but it is unlikely action is required at this stage. Keep monitoring crops for subsequent generations.

Warm weather often brings other insects such as moths into the crop and we can get occasional damage from their caterpillars. Silver Y moth and cutworm are possibly the most common, but numbers can vary considerably between and season and region.

Silver Y moth (*Autographa gamma*): threshold for treatment is 5 caterpillars per plant. This needs occasional control but depends largely on seasonal migrations. So far, we have not received any reports of this pest in beet.

Cutworm (Noctuid moth e.g., *Agrostis segetum*): can damage seedlings as well as the crown of the root. No thresholds established in the UK and control is uncommon. Rainfall usually provides a good level of control.

Beet moth: some sporadic cases indicated reported in the last few seasons in the UK and has caused some local loss of canopy.

The first symptoms of downy mildew have now been recorded in Suffolk, again check your crop.

There is more information on pest & disease identification in an article entitled 'What's in your crop' in the recent [May edition of Beet Review](#).



EVENTS

The current BeetField 2021 June events at the BBRO Demonstration sites are all fully booked. However, further visits to the BBRO demonstration farms will be organised later in the season. Keep your eye on the BBRO website for details.

On each BBRO Demonstration far, all the varieties on the 2022 RL are drilled as strips across the field. Take the opportunity to come and see how they match up to one another and to help you make your varietal choices for 2022.



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