



Issued: July 15th, 2021



IN BRIEF

- Monitoring conditions and weather forecasts using both the Sencrop weather station network and Weatherquest data have **not triggered high alerts** in any region. A high risk for cercospora will be triggered when conditions are ideal for **rapid** development.
- However, higher temperatures and humidity have been measured using the Sencrop in-canopy sensors in several areas this week including Eye, Wisbech, Downham Market, Lincoln and Skegness resulting in near-miss DIV scores for infection. This indicates that the risk is beginning to increase as July progresses and as canopies continue to 'fill-out' and higher temperatures are reached.
- First signs of virus yellows now showing in some crops.
- Some yellowing, particularly on headlands of fields, has been observed due to earlier capsid bug feeding.



ADVISORY

CERCOSPORA **Early Warning Alert**

Please consult the BBRO website for further information



Do not assume because there are no high-risk periods, there will be no infection. There are first reports of isolated symptoms in a few crops. It is essential that you begin to check crops more closely for symptoms from this stage onwards.

Fig 1: First symptoms of cercospora leaf spot found this week.

Applying fungicides at the early onset of cercospora symptoms is key to successful control. Only apply fungicides where symptoms are found.

Apply fungicide after first symptoms but before infection is established.



Fig 2: Established cercospora infection.

Remember, that it is very important to also check for symptoms of rust and powdery mildew, as your fungicide programmes may be triggered by the presence of these diseases as well.

Fungicides

It is difficult to be prescriptive about fungicide programmes as this may depend on which diseases are present, the level of symptoms and the expected weather conditions.

Starting with a triazole/strobilurin-based product (Escolta, Mirador Xtra, Priori Gold) is a sensible first spray option. Depending on the disease pressure, especially where there is a high risk of cercospora, a **second spray** may be required at 21 days. This may mean that a 3-spray programme is a minimum requirement for later lifted crops. A second spray option may be a straight triazole such as Impact (Flutriafol) or even Epxiconazole (still within the use-up period, if you have the product on-farm). This would retain the option of a second triazole/strobilurin product as the **third spray**.

BBRO have not tested copper and sulphur-based products, especially against a rapidly developing cercospora infection and would caution about relying on these products alone.

Virus yellows

Occasional primary infection plants are now showing in some fields, but further secondary spread is very limited. In BBRO research trials, plots inoculated in early June are now showing virus symptoms indicating that most symptoms in commercial crops should now be visible.



Fig 3: *Virus yellows symptoms*

Further yellowing

There are several reports of widespread yellowing in crops, especially on headlands and field margins. Whilst this looks like virus from a distance, on closer inspection, symptoms may be typical of capsid bug damage. They feed on the leaf vein and puncture marks can be seen on the underside of the leaf. They inject a toxic saliva which can then cause the leaf tips to turn yellow beyond the feeding point. The leaf may also be puckered and have brown scarred spots. Capsid damage is rarely associated with significant yield loss.



Fig 4: Capsid damage

Fig 5: Common green capsid bug (one of many species of capsid bugs)



EVENTS

Missed the recent BeetField21 events?

Don't worry you can catch up on some of the discussions via our video:

<https://youtu.be/KT4bpiGO9Mk>



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