



Issued: July 30th, 2021



IN BRIEF

- No high risk cercospora alerts triggered up until Monday 2nd August on the Sencrop network and no current high risks have been flagged by the Weatherquest system.
- Some isolated cases of cercospora symptoms found in crops but overall, the level of foliar disease in crops remains low.
- It is vital to continue to monitor crops very closely for developing disease symptoms, especially following any rain.
- Ensure fungicide programmes are started at early onset of disease symptoms.
- Some isolated areas of yellowing can be observed in crops.
- Weed beet and bolters need to be removed now.



ADVISORY

CERCOSPORA **Early Warning Alert**



Please consult the BBRO website for further information

Cercospora

No high-risk periods (conditions that will encourage rapid development of the disease) are forecast up to Monday 2nd August. Average daily temperatures are cooler over the next few days and below the optimum for cercospora.

However, there continues to be isolated reports of symptoms in a few crops. Any crops that have received heavy rain showers or have been irrigated will be at a higher risk and need to be checked very closely for symptoms. Also, check low lying areas of fields or areas of heavier soil type, where, following rain, there may be a more humid microclimate within the canopy.



Fig 1: Cercospora symptoms in an irrigated BBRO field trial on the 28th July

Fungicides

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

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. We therefore recommend that you consult your agronomist. However, the following guide may be of assistance:

T1 – Start with a triazole/strobilurin-based product (Escolta, Mirador Xtra, Priori Gold) Follow label recommendations for rates and water volume.

T2 – If cercospora is present and risk of its further development is high (high risk period reported) a second spray may be required at 21 days. A second spray option may be a straight triazole such as Impact (Flutriafol) or even Epoxiconazole (still within the use-up period if you have the product on-farm).

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. They are used in other countries against cercospora (where approved as fungicides) with other fungicides to enhance the level of control.

T3 - Retaining the option of a second triazole/strobilurin product as the third spray is sensible. Timing (21 or 28 days) will depend on the progression of any cercospora and other disease symptoms. If you are targeting a later harvest and foliar disease is established, a third spray will help protect and keep canopies green.

Yellowing in crops

Some incidences of yellowing are being observed in crops. In some cases, this is isolated to occasional plants, in other cases the yellowing is more frequent on headland or near field margins, in patches or areas of different soil type. Several samples have been submitted to the BBRO Plant Clinic. We continue to see cases of capsid damage, especially on headlands and near field margins where the leaf tips have turned yellow. Some plants in areas where the soil type is either lighter/stonier or where the soil is compacted, have become water stressed and have turned yellow.

Moisture stress may also result in some transient yellowing due to nutrient deficiencies such as magnesium and manganese. Symptoms may disappear following rain, but deficiencies can cause some leaf necrosis (often linked with secondary *Alternaria* infection too) as well as yellowing in the case of magnesium, and particularly at the leaf margin. Leaf testing may be useful to confirm deficiency and the need for any treatment.

There also continues to be occasional plants showing virus infection. This would relate to primary infection points across fields.

The canopies of different varieties are characteristically of various shades of green and this is quite clear at this stage of the season in crops. From a distance, it can look as if the field is turning yellow!



Fig 2: Yellowing due to capsid damage (note yellowing is mainly on the leaf tips)



Fig 3: Magnesium deficiency (yellowing & necrosis on leaf margin)



Fig 4: From dark green to light green. Strips of different varieties across the field at the BBRO Downham Market Demo Farm

Nematode patches

Suspected nematode (BCN & FLN) infestations are beginning to show up in infected fields, especially following the recent hot weather. In some cases, plants will turn yellow and begin to senesce. White female cysts of BCN are starting to show on the roots. Soil sampling for nematodes is best left until the autumn so make sure you have marked and mapped areas of concern for future reference.

Weed beet and bolters

Action is needed where there are bolters or weed beet in crops to prevent their number multiplying. Remember, that on average one weed beet plant may produce 1500 viable beet seeds.

Some weed beet are still at the pre-pollination stage and can be pulled, the stem broken and left on the crop to die. Many crops have or are now flowering, and plants may have been pollinated. As they will have potentially set seed, they need to be removed from the field.

More information and guidance on rouging and the key stages of weed beet, as well as the use of weed wiping and cutting can be found in the [BBRO Reference book](#).



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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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 NRoSOCPD@cityandguilds.com