



Issued: August 12th, 2021



IN BRIEF

- Foliar disease symptoms are becoming more frequent, but incidence and severity vary considerably according to location and rainfall.
- Cercospora, powdery mildew and rust are now being found in crops.
- It is vital to continue to monitor crops very closely for developing disease symptoms, especially if you have not started your fungicide programme or you are thinking ahead to the second T2 application.
- No high risk cercospora alerts triggered on the Sencrop network. Although an amber alert was recorded in the Boston area on the 11th August. No high risks have been forecasted by the Weatherquest system either. We will continue to monitor both systems and inform growers should the high alert be triggered.
- Some crops, especially on lighter land continue to show yellowing and nutrient deficiency symptoms. Some foliar nutrient applications have been made.
- Weed beet and bolters need to be removed now.



ADVISORY

CERCOSPORA **Early Warning Alert**

Please consult the BBRO website for further information

Cercospora

Whilst cercospora is being found more frequently. Symptoms do not appear to be rapidly developing. No high-risk periods (conditions that will encourage rapid development of the disease) have been triggered, but average daily temperatures are increasing, and the risk may increase where rainfall and humidity are high.

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 field or areas of heavier soil types, where there may be a more humid microclimate within the canopy.

Fungicides

Applying fungicides at the early onset of cercospora and other disease symptoms is key to successful control. Only apply fungicides where symptoms are found. Conversely, do not apply products too late otherwise effective disease control will be difficult for the remainder of the season.

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, especially if the crop is to be later harvested. 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.

Always follow label recommendations for applying products at the correct growth stage.



Fig 1: Cercospora found this week



Fig 2: Rust & Powdery mildew on the same leaf

Ensure the gap between the first and second, or second and third applications, is kept to within 21 or 28 days depending on risk (see above) to prevent significant re-infection occurring between treatments.

Ensure water volume recommendations are adhered to and are not cut back.

Know where specific varieties are sown within fields to monitor any variety-disease interaction

Yellowing in crops

Yellowing continues to be observed in crops and appears to be more persistent on light soils where rainfall has been low. Yellowing of the leaves may be associated with some leaf necrosis which is typical of magnesium deficiency. Secondary fungal infection such as *Alternaria* is developing in some cases on affected leaves. In many cases there are good size roots under affected crops, but their yield potential may be limited as the symptoms progress and may be candidates for earlier harvesting. Have a dig to check root size.



Fig 3 and 4: Typical yellowing symptoms but with good root size.

It is difficult to be precise about whether nutrient deficiency is the cause or effect of the yellowing and monitoring symptoms is important. Leaf testing may be useful to confirm nutrient deficiency. Where yellowing persists either after rain or as soil dries out, a general foliar nutrient application is worthy of consideration.

We continue to see cases of capsid damage, especially on headlands and near field margins where the leaf tips have turned yellow. There also continues to be occasional plants or small patches showing virus infection. This would relate to primary infection points across fields.

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.



EVENTS

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CONTACTS

British Beet Research Organisation, Innovation Centre, Norwich Research Park, Colney Lane, Norwich, NR4 7GJ

Prof Mark Stevens mark.stevens@bbro.co.uk 07712 822194

Dr Simon Bowen simon.bowen@bbro.co.uk 07718 422717

Stephen Aldis stephen.aldis@bbro.co.uk 07867 141705

General Enquiries info@bbro.co.uk



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