



Issued: August 19th, 2021



## IN BRIEF

- No high risk cercospora alerts triggered on the Sencrop network. Although amber alerts (low risk) have been raised for Boston, Walpole and Grimston areas for the 22<sup>nd</sup> August. No high risks have been forecasted by the Weatherquest system. We will continue to monitor both systems and inform growers should the high alert be triggered.
- Tortoise beetles have been found in a crop in the Wisington area. This is a very rare species in the UK and normally associated with eastern/southern Europe or North Africa.
- Foliar disease symptoms are becoming more frequent, but incidence and severity vary considerably according to location and rainfall.
- 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.
- 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 and reported 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.

### **Tortoise beetles**

This week tortoise beetles have been found on a farm in the Wissington factory area. This is the first case ever reported to the BBRO, although literature suggests they were very occasionally identified in East Anglia back in the early/mid 1990s. They are usually seen as a pest of sugar beet in central/eastern Europe and North Africa and can potentially cause serious economic consequences via the late defoliation of crops, although highly unlikely to kill beet. As our climate continues to change, this could well influence its future distribution and abundance.



Figs 1 & 2: Tortoise beetles found in Wissington area and damage caused to crop (Photos courtesy of Tim Martin).

If you see or suspect these beetles on your beet please let us know via the BBRO plant clinic. BBRO are currently investigating what control strategies are used across Europe.

### **Nematode patches**

Suspected nematode (BCN & FLN) infestations continue to show in infected fields. 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.

## **Fungicides**

Applying fungicides at the early onset of cercospora (and other foliar diseases) 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.

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



## EVENTS

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**BBRO**  
Research Organisation



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- What you need to know to see your crop through to a later harvest.
- Treated (fungicides) and untreated variety strips (Morley only)

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Limited spaces - max 60 minutes per visit  
Booking essential: [www.bbro.co.uk/events](http://www.bbro.co.uk/events)  
NRoSO and BASIS points available



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