



Issued: September 8th 2021



IN BRIEF

- Crops look generally well with good root yield and increasing sugar levels. Many have good autumn yield potential. Recent sunshine will certainly help with further root yield and sugar production.
- Many soils are in urgent need of rain, with crops wilting on the lighter and thinner soils. Rain is also required to soften ground and reduce root breakage ahead of harvesting.
- A range of foliar disease, including rust and cercospora can be found across all areas. It is important to keep monitoring crops for foliar disease incidence and development.
- **Our weather monitoring network is predicting that the humidity will increase towards the end of this week which, combined with the continuing high temperature will create conditions that favour rapid cercospora development.**
- **If you have not already done so, and are planning a later lift, it is vital to ensure crops are protected with fungicides during this period.**



ADVISORY

Cercospora

Cercospora is present in many crops but to date conditions have not been conducive for widespread rapid development, although occasional plants are showing more advanced symptoms.

However, our weather monitoring network is forecasting higher risk of conditions for more rapid cercospora development from Thursday 9th Sept onwards. This is linked to

forecasted rain which will increase the humidity in the crops. High temperatures and humidity provide ideal conditions for rapid cercospora development.



Any crops that receive heavy rain showers, or have been irrigated recently, will be at a higher risk and will need to be checked very closely for developing symptoms.



Fig 1 Moderate Cercospora symptoms on left with more advanced symptoms on centre and right.

Fungicides

T1: Most crops have had their first (T1) fungicide application. If you have not applied a fungicide as foliar disease was not present, continue to assess crops very closely. Rust is beginning to develop. Remember, fungicides provide more effective control at early onset of symptoms. Don't leave it too late.

Where foliar disease was present and the first fungicide was applied more than 3 weeks ago, it is important to carefully check crops for cercospora symptoms and consider the need for a second application as a matter of priority.

T2: Many crops which have already had their second (T2) fungicide (in many cases this has been made in the last 7 days) should be relatively well protected.

In the current dry conditions and with crops wilting and, in some cases, 'flat on the ground' Ensure fungicides are applied to a standing crop, possible by applying in the early morning.

T3: The decision for a third fungicide will depend on your target harvest date and the level of foliar disease present. BBRO trials and BYC data have indicated that crops being

harvested after the end of November and into the new year, can benefit from a third application.

Check products for their harvest intervals, these can vary between 21 and 36 days.

Crops for later harvesting

Yellowing continues to be observed in a small number of crops and in some cases, there is secondary fungal infection such as *Alternaria* or even *Cercospora*.



Fig 2 Yellowing with secondary fungal infection

In many cases there are good size roots under affected crops but depending on the severity of the symptoms further yield potential may be limited as the symptoms progress and these crops may be candidates for earlier harvesting.

Whilst the decision on harvest date primarily depends on following crop requirements and soil type the following criteria (in order of priority) is a guide to identifying which crops may have the most autumn yield potential:

- 1) A vigorous green and healthy canopy with low levels of foliage disease will provide optimum light interception and frost protection as the campaign progresses.
- 2) Secondly, if foliar diseases are currently at a relatively low level, use the variety rust and powdery mildew rating on the RL list as a guide to potential disease susceptibility as the autumn progresses.
- 3) Thirdly, crops with a more upright growth habit can be potentially more effective at intercepting light in the autumn.



EVENTS

Missed the recent September BeetField21 events?

An overview of the 2022 Sugar Beet RL varieties can be found in the most recent edition of [Beet Review](#). Updated variety information will be posted on the BBRO website as soon as data has been collected & analysed.



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