



Issued: September 16th, 2021



IN BRIEF

- Crops continue to look generally well, many with strong green canopies providing the potential to exploit late season sunshine for further root yield and sugar production.
- Recent rain will have alleviated the dry conditions, especially crops on lighter land which were suffering from a lack of moisture, as well as softening the ground ahead of harvesting.
- **There are increasing levels of foliar diseases especially cercospora and rust in crops.** Recent rain will encourage further disease progression. It is important to keep monitoring crops for foliar disease incidence and development.
- **Our weather monitoring network predicted a higher risk of cercospora development last week and again following the wet weather this week. Further amber risk alerts have been triggered by the Sencrop monitoring network (forecasting potential risk) in the following areas: Skegness, Boston, Norwich, Bury St Edmunds, Eye and Sudbury. No alerts have been highlighted by the Weatherquest data (recorded risk).**
- **If you have not already done so, and especially where you are planning a later lift, it is vital to ensure crops are protected with fungicides during this period. Many crops have still only had one fungicide and may need further protection through to harvest.**



ADVISORY

Cercospora & foliar diseases

Our weather monitoring network is forecasting amber risk conditions for potentially more rapid cercospora development this week. Wherever cercospora is already established in

the crop, the recent rain will increase the risk of further development. Whilst rapid disease development is usually associated with temperatures above 24/25°C, there will still be some activity, especially **where cercospora is already established** in the crop, albeit less rapid in temperatures that are down to 16-18°C.

Check out our website for further details <https://bbro.co.uk/on-farm/cercospora-risk/>.



Any crops that received heavy rain showers and where the soil is now wet will be at a higher risk and need to be checked very closely for developing symptoms.

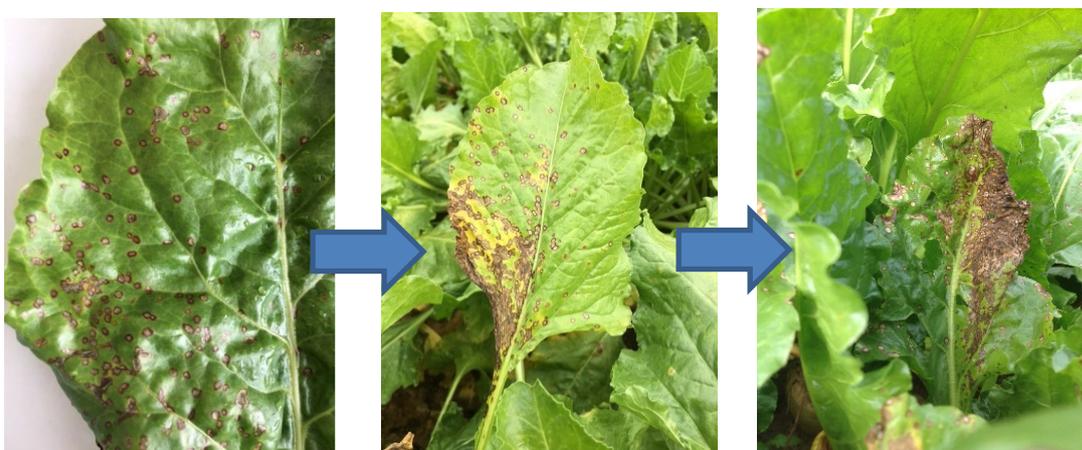


Fig 1-3: *Moderate Cercospora symptoms (left) with more advanced symptoms (centre and right). Under favourable conditions, symptoms can progress from moderate to severe within 10 days.*

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 3-4 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 7-14 days) should be relatively well protected.

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 4: 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 the 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 and analysed.



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