



Issued: 21st April 2022



IN BRIEF

- With soil temperatures reaching >10°C, seed is germinating quickly and emerging well. Earlier drilled crops have already reached the first and second true leaf stage in some areas. Weeds are also rapidly germinating and growing quickly so it is important to keep a close eye on crops for optimum herbicide timing.
- Try to keep the first post-emergence herbicide spray as 'gentle' as possible to reduce the risk of damage.
- Green wingless aphids are increasingly being found in non-Cruiser treated crops. In some crops the threshold for aphicide sprays has already been reached. However, not all of these have been confirmed as *Myzus persicae*. Check non-Cruiser ST treated crops as a priority. The BBRO aphid-monitoring network is now active, and the first real time data is available on BBROplus, register for this service via the BBRO website: www.bbro.co.uk
- Farm hygiene is crucial at this stage to remove any potential sources of aphids, virus, or other diseases such as cercospora transferring into this season's crop. Check and destroy any leaf growth on spoil heaps, clamps, groundkeepers and especially any unharvested areas of the 2021 crop.
- There is some concern about rapidly drying soils and rain will undoubtedly help, but many seedbeds still have sufficient moisture below the surface.
- Some limited reports of bird/animal grazing of cotyledons have been received. In most cases the growing point remained intact, so the beet should be able to grow away from such damage. Consider deploying bird scarers in problem areas.
- As soils are becoming increasingly dry, do not delay in getting remaining nitrogen on to crops. Make sure there is sufficient time for top-dressed nitrogen to be washed into the soil and available to plants to drive rapid leaf growth.
- Little re-drilling has been necessary following recent wind blow and frost events.



ADVISORY

Dry conditions - many crops have been drilled into moisture and this will sustain growth for several weeks. Remember, by the time cotyledons are unfolded above ground, the initial roots will already be 2-4cm long below ground and hopefully into moisture. However, soils are progressively drying at depth, and, for many, rain is required soon.



Emerged seedlings will have good root systems below ground into moisture.

Herbicides - with all post emergence herbicide applications, it is important allow beet crops to harden off as much as possible before applications are made. Using high rates, increasing the number of partners in the mix, and adding oil will further increase the risk of crop damage. High light levels, dry soils and large changes in diurnal temperatures increase susceptibility to herbicide damage. Check crop growth stages and compliance with the minimum crop growth stage on product labels especially where emergence has been variable and/or where there may be different varieties in the field.

Aphids – Numbers are starting to increase and whilst few are *Myzus persicae* at this stage, other aphids, such as the potato aphid (*Macrosiphum euphorbiae*), are present. This species can transmit the yellowing viruses. Please check all non-Cruiser treated crops and consider spraying if above the aphid threshold of **one green wingless aphid per four plants** up until the 12-leaf stage.

For non-Cruiser treated crops two sprays are currently approved: flonicamid or acetamiprid. These can be applied in any order. So far, there have been no reports of wingless aphids on Cruiser treated crops BUT REMEMBER if you need to spray (if above threshold) you have to start with flonicamid (Teppeki or Afinto).

If submitting photographs to BBRO for identification purposes, please ensure these are of sufficient magnification and clarity as we have received some shockers so far!

Nitrogen rates – BBRO nitrogen trials rarely show responses above 120kgN/ha and there is a shallow yield response curve above 90-100kg N/ha on mineral soil. At current fertiliser prices, the yield response to rates above 100 kg N/ha are unlikely to be economic. Many growers are trimming back nitrogen rates by 20-30 kg N/ha this season. Remember to account for any nitrogen contributions from manure application and cover crops that included legume nitrogen-fixing species. Make sure top-dressed nitrogen is applied in good time for the nitrogen to be washed down sufficiently into the soil. Target final top dressing with nitrogen to be completed by full emergence.



Bookings now open for the BBRO BeetField22 events.

BeetField22: MAY

4 farms, 4 events
4 topics:

Aphid Control
Nutrition
Foliar Disease
Varieties

4 YOU

MAY 2022

16:00 - 19:00

12th - Park Farm, Thorney, Peterborough

13th - Eaubrink Farm, King's Lynn

17th - Bracebridge, Lincs

18th - Fersfield, Diss



Book an hour slot: www.bbroy.co.uk
Refreshments provided
BASIS & NRoSO Points available



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BASIS POINTS

Two BASIS points in total (not per bulletin) have been allocated for the period between 01/06/21 and 31/05/22 reference **CP/111958/2122/g**. To claim these points please email cpd@basis-reg.co.uk

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