



Issued: 11th May 2022



IN BRIEF

- Crops make faltering progress following variable rainfall across the beet area. Some fields remain dry and have a range of growth stages present; some with seed only just germinating and emerging, through to 4-8-leaf stage. Early drilled crops with plant roots down into moisture are developing well, with advanced plants at the 6-8 leaf stage.
- Winged and wingless aphid numbers continue to build especially in non-Cruiser treated crops and wingless threshold numbers have been found and foliar insecticides applied.
- Aphid numbers on Cruiser-treated crops are very low, and only winged aphids are being found, indicating the seed treatment is working well.
- Check all non-Cruiser treated crops as a priority and consider spraying **BUT** only if above the aphid threshold of **one green wingless aphid per four plants**.
- Aphid numbers vary from field to field, often influenced by local factors such proximity to oilseed rape or how sheltered a field is. It is important to make decisions on a field x field basis to ensure foliar insecticide is used to the best effective. Don't apply too early and use up one of your permitted foliar applications.
- A range of damage symptoms due to leaf feeding insects (flea beetle, leaf miner, thrips) have been seen along with the surprise catch of two tortoise beetles in the yellow water pans. This is occurring more commonly in non-Cruiser treated crops. Any treatment with pyrethroid-based insecticide should be avoided wherever possible to minimise resistance issues and their effects on beneficial insects.
- Many crops have had their T1 & T2 herbicides. Where crop growth stages vary be careful with your choice of herbicides, rate of use and use of adjuvants. Be mindful of the conditions that may increase susceptibility to herbicide damage This is especially important for herbicides containing lenacil.



Fig 1: Shot-holing damage due to flea beetle that is holding back plant development in some areas. This damage has been very pronounced this year.



Aphids - Check the aphid survey data and aphid distribution map on BBROPlus regularly for the latest update (<https://plus.bbroy.co.uk/on-farm/member-area/>). Use this as a guide only and not a substitute for checking your own individual crops.

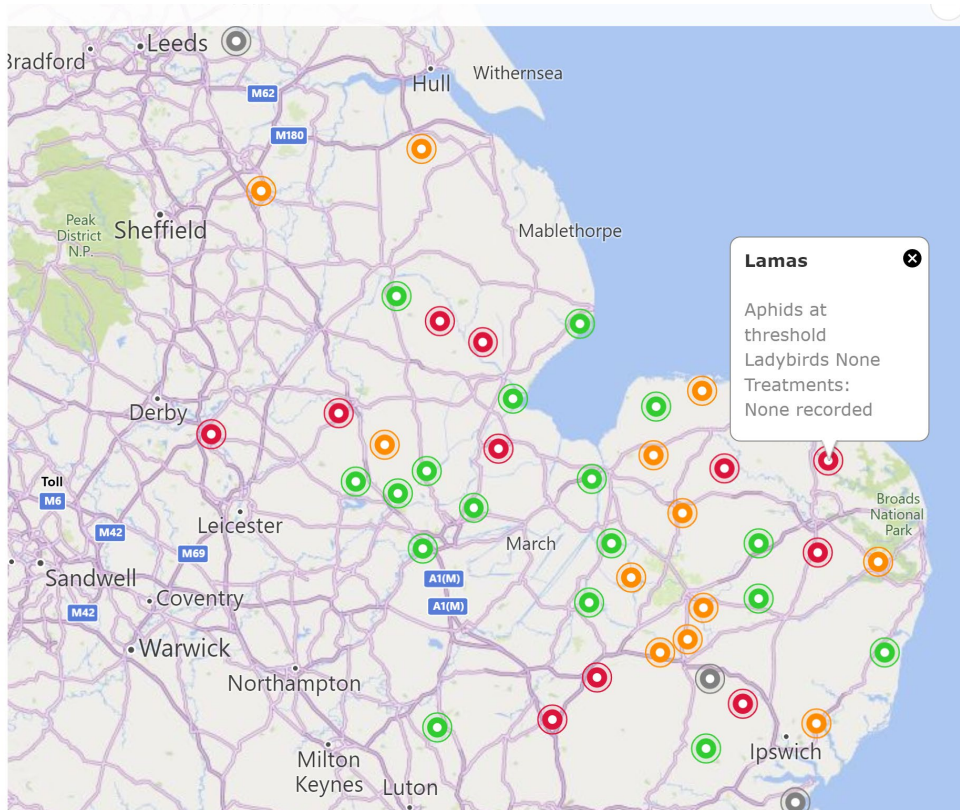


Fig 2: Aphid map as of 10/5/2022

Increasing numbers of winged aphids are being caught in the BBRO yellow water pan traps (and the regional suction trap network) and a high proportion of these are now being identified as *Myzus persicae*. This is the principal vector of virus yellows.

For non-Cruiser treated crops two sprays are currently approved: flonicamid or acetamiprid. These can be applied in any order. Please remember if you apply flonicamid you can use either Teppeki **OR** Afinto. You cannot apply two applications of flonicamid despite the availability of two products. Please use the appropriate water volumes of these insecticides too.

There are also reports of wingless aphids on Cruiser treated crops **BUT REMEMBER** if you need to spray (**ONLY** if above threshold) you must start with flonicamid (Teppeki or Afinto).

Herbicides – weeds are slow to germinate where soils remain dry, but some broad-leaved weeds and grass weeds are beginning to establish. Where crop growth stages are variable and/or where

crops are showing signs of stress or pest damage, continue to be cautious with the choice of actives, rates, and adjuvants.

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. Lenacil containing products state 'cannot be used before first leaf visible (pinhead size) and cotyledons horizontally unfolded (BBCH 10)', so only consider using these products containing lenacil where most of the crop has reached this stage.

In general, great caution should be taken if considering tank mixing herbicides. BBRO generally advise against tank mixing foliar insecticides and herbicides as it is quite likely the efficacy of one or both partners will be compromised by not applying at the right time or conditions. Do not compromise on water volumes as these may be different and check on the compatibility of different partner products.

Nutrition - Rapidly growing crops, especially where most plants are at the 4-6 leaf stage will be ready for their first manganese and magnesium applications. Where plants are only growing slowly, and leaves are small, these are probably best left to develop greater leaf area for foliar uptake.

Manganese is key to supporting rapid leaf growth. Target a minimum of 1-2 applications during early canopy growth starting from BBCH 114-16 (4-6 leaf stage) repeating at 7-14 days. Target 1 kg Mn/ha in normal growing conditions and 2 kg Mn/ha where there is a higher likelihood of deficiency such as rapidly growing crops (all soil types) and/or organic & sandy soils, high pH, after liming and fluffy seedbeds. Remember symptoms can be transient depending on the growing conditions but apply at the first signs of symptoms, don't wait for severe symptoms to develop.

Crops on dry light or thin soils, and in low organic matter may also benefit from foliar sulphur if not applied in the base dressing. Foliar boron may also be an option on light, low organic matter and calcareous soils, especially where the soil remains dry.



EVENTS

Bookings now open for the BBRO BeetField22 events.

British Beet Research Organisation, Centrum
Norwich, NR4 7UG

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

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

Stephen Aldis stephen.aldis@bbro.co.uk 078

General Enquiries info@bbro.co.uk

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.bbro.co.uk

Refreshments provided

BASIS & NRoSO Points available



CONTACTS



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

Two NRoSO points in total (not per bulletin) have been allocated between 01/06/2021 and 31/05/2022 reference **NO469403f**. To claim these points please email NRoSOC PD@cityandguilds.com