



Issued: 12th July 2022



IN BRIEF

- Whilst yield potential is clearly being lost in current dry conditions, many crops are maintaining canopies and eventual rainfall will see a return to active leaf and root growth. Some leaf damage and senescence is occurring on lighter and thinner soils, and whilst these plants retain the potential for new leaf growth this will be at the expense of root growth.
- If later summer and autumn conditions remain conducive to growth, beet crops have the potential to recover a good proportion of this lost yield. However, later harvest dates will be required to realise this potential. Keeping canopies healthy now and into the later summer period will be key to ensuring yield recovery.
- Virus symptoms continue to develop in crops but in many fields where control measures have been used (Cruiser-treated seed and/or foliar insecticides) symptoms are mainly limited (but not in all cases) to small primary infection plants and patches. It is expected that symptoms will continue to develop over the next few weeks.
- We continue to see cases of capsid damage, especially on headlands and near field margins where the leaf tips have turned yellow, these symptoms can be confused with virus infection. We have also seen some cases of yellowing due to magnesium deficiency, this can be expected in dry, hot weather.
- Foliar diseases remain broadly absent in crops, and it is unlikely that many crops require fungicides yet. **BBRO's cercospora risk monitoring programme is active and no high-risk alerts have been triggered to date.** We will alert you as soon as any high-risk periods have been recorded.
- Remain vigilant for the first signs of disease. Ensure fungicide programmes are started at early onset of disease symptoms and not before. With a reduced number of fungicides available this season, do not apply fungicides unnecessarily. Avoid applying fungicides to wilted crops as they will be relatively ineffective.
- Weed beet and bolters continue to increase and need controlling.
- In the hot weather, suspected nematode (BCN & FLN) infestations are beginning to show in infected fields. In some cases, plants will turn yellow and are beginning to senesce rapidly. White female cysts of BCN maybe visible to the naked eye on roots, provided roots are lifted gently. Soil sampling for nematodes is best left until the autumn so make sure you have mapped areas of concern for future reference.

- If irrigation is an option, it may be necessary to decide whether to apply a little water to a number of crops or focus on applying more intensely. Often the latter will deliver better returns, but this will depend on specific situations.



ADVISORY

Weed-beet and bolters

Weed beet and bolters continue to increase and need controlling if a massive seed return to the soil is to be avoided. On average 1,500 seeds are produced per weed beet. Just one weed beet, bolter or tall weed per square metre can therefore reduce crop yields by 11% through shading and especially competition for water and nutrients in current conditions. Hand pulling is the most effective method of control. Weed beet stems are also appearing from groundkeepers on old loading sites and spoil heaps. These also need removing. If the weed beet and bolters are either pre-flowering or just in flower (see photos below) stems can be pulled, broken and left in field. If they have completed flowering, they need to be removed from the field. Weed wiping and cutting are options but are generally less effective than hand pulling. Details of these approaches can be found in the BBRO reference book <https://bbro.co.uk/publications/reference-book/>

Key stages of weed beet control

Pre-flowering



Open flower



At this stage weed beet and bolters should be pulled, have the stem broken close to the root and left on top of the crop to die.

Foliar disease

Whilst the incidence of foliar disease is currently low, it is important to check crops closely for early symptoms. The photos below may provide a guide to some early symptoms. Most of these are from our BBRO photo library and are not from this current season. Please use the BBRO Plant Clinic if you need assistance with disease identification.

Some symptoms in the early-stage can look very similar and confusing so be clear on what is present before applying a fungicide. We have seen symptoms of Bacterial Leaf Spot and Alternaria in crops this season which can be confused with Cercospora.



Fig 1: Early (left) and later (right) rust symptoms

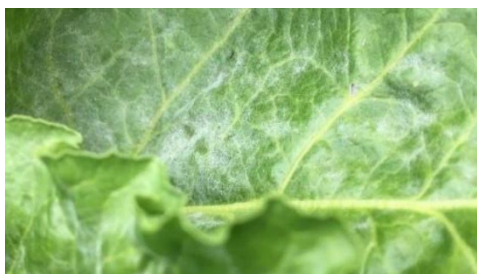


Fig 2: Powdery mildew



Fig 3 & 4: Cercospora



Figure 5 (left): Bacterial Leaf Spot



Fig 6: Ramularia



Fig 7: Alternaria



EVENTS

Next events:

BeetField22: JULY Re-visits



Topics:

Foliar disease & fungicide update
Cercospora risk & management focus
Virus yellows report
Variety selection for 2023

Plus a special Herbicide trial demo with UPL
(Bracebridge site only, allow extra 30 minutes)

7th - Bracebridge 26th - Fersfield 28th - Thorney

Book 1 hour slot: www.bbro.co.uk
BASIS & NRoSO points available



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Two BASIS points in total (not per bulletin) have been allocated for the period between 01/06/22 and 31/05/23 reference **CP/120094/2223/g**. To claim these points please email cpd@basis-reg.co.uk

Two NRoSO points in total (not per bulletin) have been allocated between 01/06/2022 and 31/05/2023 **NO471260f** reference. To claim these points please email NRoSOC PD@cityandguilds.com