



Issued: 10th August 2022



IN BRIEF

- Nobody needs reminding but the lack of rain remains challenging for many across the beet growing area.
- With little moisture available, this is having a direct influence on current disease pressure. The threat from cercospora leaf spot remains low despite high temperatures ([please see BBRO updates](#)). Rust can be found but generally pressure is light but these conditions are favouring powdery mildew development. Therefore, please check crops for this disease (and target varieties with a lower disease rating for initial assessments) but do keep a watch for other diseases too.
- If possible, spray at the first sign of disease.
- However, spraying fungicides will be problematic especially if crops are wilting, remain flat for extended periods and/ or are losing older leaves. When spraying for disease try and apply products when the canopy is upright and the inner leaves turgid. This is best done early and before the heat of the day.
- The full list of fungicides is available in the BBRO Reference book (page 105), but a good broad-spectrum product with efficacy against powdery mildew will be important under these current conditions.
- Caligula (Fluopyram and prothioconazole) has also now gained full approval for the UK crop, but only one application is permitted from 1st September onwards. Please check label for details and conditions of use.
- BBRO Plant Clinic is receiving reports of damaged inner leaves/petioles, black hearts, and loss of the growing point which could be down to downy mildew or boron deficiency, but this year, possibly due to the hot dry conditions, it appears to be caused by weevil larva and potentially beet moth larva.
- For some, weed beet and bolters continue to increase and need controlling to prevent seed return to the soil.



Plant Clinic Reports

Several growers, particularly in the Bury factory area, are reporting blackened and/or damaged growing points to beet (Fig. 1). Usually this would be due to downy mildew infection or boron deficiency, but this year, possibly due to the hot dry conditions, this appears to be caused by weevil larva (Fig. 2) and potentially beet moth larva. However, we are currently determining the species involved. If you see something similar please contact the BBRO Plant Clinic so that we can determine the extent of this problem.



Fig 1. Beet black heart caused by larval damage



Fig 2: Weevil larva

Weed beet and bolters

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, their stems can be pulled, broken and left in field. If they have completed flowering, which is now more likely, 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/>



BeetField22: September Re-visits



Topics:
Foliar disease & fungicide update
Cercospora risk & management focus
Variety selection for 2023
Harvest & storage

Book 1 hour slot: www.bbro.co.uk
(2pm, 3pm or 4pm)
BASIS & NRoSO points available



6th Sept - Eau Brink (King's Lynn)
8th Sept - Fersfield Diss
13th Sept - Bracebridge

BBRO BeetTech23 dates confirmed (details to follow):

7th February – Newark Showground

9th February – Newmarket Racecourse



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BASIS POINTS

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