

Following the recent news about the Cruiser seed treatment derogation, here is a reminder of the other actions you need to consider as part of an integrated approach to controlling virus in 2023.

Aphid and virus reduction strategy

The virus forecast for 2023 will be calculated on the 1st of March as temperatures in January and February are key to aphid survival. The forecast will determine whether Cruiser seed treatments will be available in 2023. With or without seed treatment it is essential that an integrated approach to controlling aphids, and against the spread of virus is practiced:

1

WITHOUT FAIL YOU MUST:

Remove or destroy any beet growth on clamps or in spoil heaps. Remove any energy/fodder beet in the vicinity of drilled crops and destroy any cover crops well ahead of drilling.

2

ADDITIONAL THINGS YOU CAN DO TO PROTECT YOUR CROP:

Encourage beneficials to your farm. Consider using under-sown barley especially where an early aphid migration is expected.

3

DO THE BASICS BRILLIANTLY:

Good seed bed preparation and appropriate seed rates to give optimal plant population of 100,000 plants/ha. Drill as soon as conditions are right, focusing on drill accuracy. Ensure adequate nutrition for rapid growth, carefully targeting weed control whilst avoiding herbicide damage.

4

CHECK YOUR CROP FOR APHIDS AT AN EARLY STAGE:

Keep up to date with latest info on aphids from BBRO. The cold winter, will reduce both the number of aphids and delay their migration which will reduce the impact of Virus Yellows considerably.

5

CHECK – DOES YOUR CROP NEED A FOLIAR INSECTICIDE?

Check your crops daily to assess whether the threshold of 1 green wingless aphid per 4 plants triggers the need for a foliar insecticide. Remember the threshold changes at the 12 leaf stage Don't delay in applying where required.