

Cruiser SB Drill Operator Guidance 2024

In accordance with the requirements of the Cruiser SB Emergency Authorisation for the 2024 sugar beet crop, the industry is required to follow strict conditions. This card outlines the on-farm requirements that must be followed when using Cruiser SB treated sugar beet seed – please ensure it is seen by drill operators. **The drilling rate for Cruiser SB treated sugar beet seed must not exceed 115,000 seeds/ha.** It is each grower's responsibility to ensure this seed rate is adopted to ensure the terms of the emergency authorisation are adhered to. In some cases, 1.15 units/ha will be lower than the recommended rate as stated in the [BBRO Reference Book](#). Where rates above 1.15 units/ha are required to establish robust plant populations, this should be made up with seed that has NOT been treated with 'Cruiser SB'.

Conditions of the Cruiser SB Emergency Authorisation

- **Cruiser SB is available for use under Emergency Authorisation for 120 days - the Emergency Authorisation ends on 1 June 2024. All treated seed must be drilled within these dates.**
- The neonicotinoid seed treatment available is: Cruiser SB (45g ai/unit), Force ST (8g ai/unit).
- If a field is drilled with Cruiser SB treated seed, any re-drilled beet in that field **must not** be treated with Cruiser SB due to loading limits on any given area. There can be no further use of thiamethoxam seed treatments on the same field within 46 months. If you need to plant sugar beet in the same field *within* 46 months, it will have to be a **non-neonicotinoid treated seed**. This is important if any future Cruiser SB derogations are granted.
- **There are strict following crop rules attached to the Emergency Authorisation. Refer to table overleaf.**
- Only sugar beet contracted with British Sugar plc is included in the Emergency Authorisation. Fodder, energy and red beet are not included.

Drilling

- Handle seed carefully and wear PPE such as gloves and a mask
- Store seed securely in a dry and frost-free area
- Ensure the drill has been checked and tested
- Set the drill to deliver a **maximum seed rate of 115,000 seeds/ha**, this may not deliver the optimum final field population of 100,000 plants/ha in some cases (see below)
- All spillages should be cleaned up using the spillage kit provided. Label and tie up bags appropriately and use an approved disposal contractor to destroy the treated seed (Details can be found at the Environment Agency website <https://www.wastedirectory.org.uk> if you do not know an approved disposal contractor)
- Ensure that all seed is well covered with soil including the drill row ends
- Empty all units at the end of the drilling season and importantly, before moving to seeds which have not been treated with Cruiser
- Records must be kept of the fields sown with 'Cruiser SB' treated seed for a minimum of 3 years.
- Prepare a firm, even seedbed. Cruiser SB is not known to have any adverse effect on seed germination or crop emergence but poor seed quality or seedbed conditions (waterlogged, capped, dry, fluffy or cloddy seedbeds) may result in delayed emergence and/or poor establishment. Similarly, avoid deep or shallow drilling which can adversely affect crop establishment and may reduce the level of pest control.

Herbicides

As part of the Emergency Authorisation growers and industry partners must observe standard best practice, industry-recommended herbicide programmes, applicable only to **in field** weeds. Please adopt the programme recommended by your BASIS-qualified agronomist/adviser and BBRO guidance contained in Advisory Bulletins and the BBRO Reference Book. Also ensure that all weed beet and bolters are adequately controlled to prevent any following that may attract insects. Herbicides containing the active ingredient Lenacil should not be used pre-crop emergence on fields drilled with seed treated with cruiser SB. Other approved herbicides may be applied pre-emergence of the crop. Approved herbicides may be used as recommended post emergence of the crop.

Insecticides

- The threshold for foliar insecticide applications is **5 green wingless aphid per 20 plants up to the 12-leaf stage**.
- Between 12-16 leaves the treatment threshold is **1 green wingless aphid per plant**.
- Foliar sprays should be applied as soon as the above thresholds are met and not delayed. The current available authorised foliar sprays are one application of flonicamid (either 'Teppeki' (MAPP 12402) or 'Afinto' (MAPP 19622)), and one application of 'Insyst' containing the neonicotinoid acetamiprid (MAPP 13414).

Seed rate and optimum plant populations

The crop is referred to as established once it reaches the 6-leaf stage. Most sugar beet is drilled using 50cm or 45cm row widths. The ideal row spacing is 16cm but use your predicted establishment to choose the required seed spacing for your establishment conditions. **Please be aware the maximum seed rate you can go to when using Cruiser SB treated seed, under the terms of the Emergency Authorisation, is 1.15 units/Ha.** Any seed rates above 1.15 units/ha required to establish robust plant populations, can only be made up with seed that has NOT been treated with 'Cruiser SB'.

Following crop restrictions

The Cruiser SB EA requires growers to follow strict rotational requirements. The following-crop restrictions apply for subsequent crops planted on the same area of land as Cruiser SB sugar beet drilled in 2024.

- **Any crop excluded from the below table should be considered 'restricted' i.e. a minimum of 32 months from drilling of Sugar Beet.**
- **The 32-month restriction applies to those agri-environment options that allow flowers to grow or appear on the same ground on which Cruiser SB treated seed was sown in 2024.**
- **Cover crops (including mixes) must also follow the 32-month restrictions.**

	Non-restricted	Restricted
Rules	No restrictions following Sugar Beet	A minimum of 32 months from drilling of Sugar Beet
Crops	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wheat (including Durum Wheat) 2. Barley 3. Millet 4. Sorghum 5. Oat 6. Maize / Corn 7. Rye 8. Triticale 9. Canary seed 10. Spelt 11. Potato 12. Cabbage 13. Kale 14. Swede 15. Lettuce / Babyleaf / Spinach 16. Onions 17. Leeks 18. Carrots 19. Parsnips 20. Cauliflower 21. Broccoli 22. Turnip 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 23. Oilseed Rape 24. Linseed 25. Mustard 26. Soya Bean 27. Pea 28. Bean 29. Buckwheat 30. Clover 31. Phacelia 32. Chicory 33. Radish 34. Vetch 35. False Flax 36. Lucerne 37. Sunflower 38. Borage 39. Sainfoin 40. Nyger 41. Lupins

No further use of thiamethoxam seed treatments (including any re-drilling of treated sugar beet if crop lost due to wind blow or capping) on the same field area for 46 months from the date of sowing treated sugar beet seed in 2024 – a requirement of the Cruiser SB EA. This is to minimise the risk of any residues being acquired by succeeding bee-attractive crops or weeds and hence exposing bees and/or other pollinators to the neonicotinoid seed treatment.