



Issued: 19th April



IN BRIEF

- Drilling well underway and in many cases the crop is visible but growth has slowed this week due to the colder weather.
- Some isolated cases of hail damage reported, along with some soil pest activity and grazing by birds and other mammals.
- If adverse weather conditions are forecast, it may be worth delaying post herbicide use to reduce damage risk.
- If re-drilling is required in areas where Cruiser has already been used, **do NOT re-drill with Cruiser treated seed.**
- Select appropriate seed rates in line with expected establishment. **Remember Cruiser SB treated seed must be drilled at a maximum rate of 1.15 units/ha.** Ensure all drill operators are aware of the [guidelines associated with the use of Cruiser SB](#) treated seed, particularly ensuring all drilled seed is covered. If drilling into fields or areas of fields such as headlands with a poor seedbed, consider using a higher seed rate, and again ensure seed coverage.
- Non-Cruiser crops will need monitoring from emergence but with only 2 insecticides currently available, careful management is essential to ensure the best protection. Currently, InSyst should be used as the first spray for non-treated crops. Further guidance will be issued once emergency authorisation decisions are known.
- Listen to [April's BeetCast](#) to hear more relating to aphid and virus control.
- Please do not use pyrethroid insecticides for aphid control on sugar beet as over 80% of the UK peach-potato aphid population are currently resistant to these products. Pyrethroids can also have a negative impact on beneficial insects too (which now appear to be increasing) and these will be crucial in limiting the spread of virus yellows this year.
- BBRO Aphid Survey now underway.



ADVISORY

Clear signs of successful emergence can be seen across the growing region, along with small pockets of hail and wind damage and some pest damage. If you are considering re-drilling in any area that has previously had Cruiser, do **NOT** re-drill with more Cruiser treated seed.

Figure 1: Leather Jacket making a meal of sugar beet crop, photo courtesy of Martyn Cox



Aphid Survey

The first winged *Myzus persicae* caught in BBRO yellow water pans was identified at Fotheringhay, Cambridgeshire on 11th April. Further *M. persicae* and *M. euphorbiae* have been identified from samples, especially following the warm weather last weekend, although of those tested none have been found to be carrying virus. However, on several fields, on more advanced non-Cruiser treated crops, especially in East Anglia, the number of green wingless aphids has breached the spray threshold. Please monitor all non-Cruiser crops closely over the coming weeks as we anticipate aphid numbers to increase, although prevailing weather will ultimately influence their abundance as we saw in 2023.

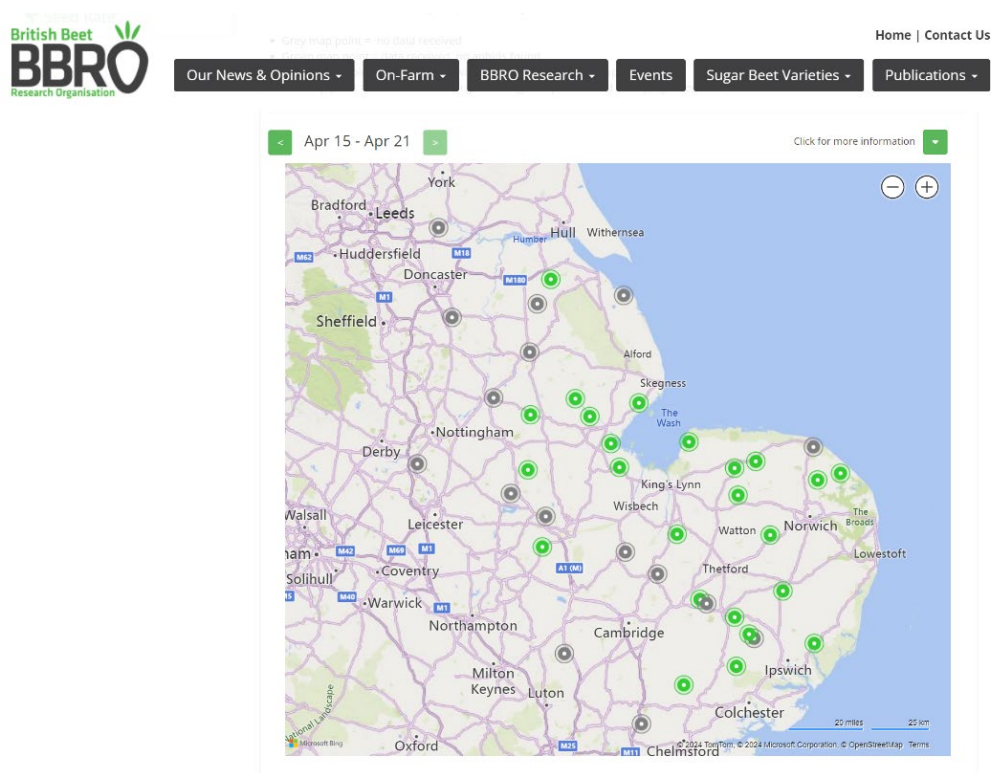


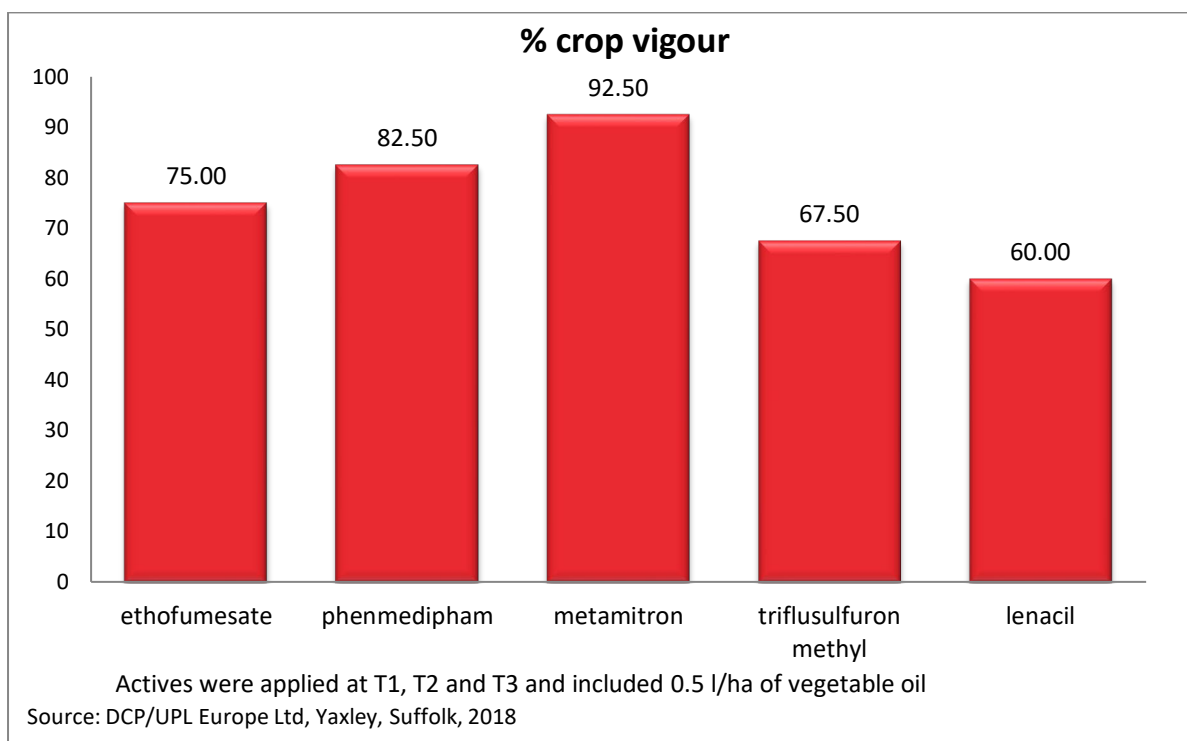
Figure 3: Aphid survey map as of 19th April 2024. Green denotes sample received but no aphids found. Grey denotes no sample received (or currently not drilled). Data is collected twice a week. <https://plus.bbroy.co.uk/on-farm/member-area/aphid-survey/aphids-site-map/>

Early post emergence sprays

Weather conditions have not been kind to newly emerging beet this week with hail and wind damage being reported and some early morning frosts occurring. Herbicide damage is most likely when sprays are applied within the first 24 hours of adverse weather. Underlying problems such as nutrient deficiencies, pH issues or herbicide tank mixes being too strong will also impact on crop health.

Table 1 show results from a 2018 trial that demonstrate the difference in plant vigour after different herbicide actives were applied. It is recognised that metamiltron (as in Goltix 70 SC, Bettix Flo) is safer to the crop compared to other actives. Where there are concerns over crop health a holding spray of metamiltron plus adjuvant can be used, check individual product labels for supported rates. Follow up sprays will be required as soon as crop health allows to ensure adequate weed control. Ensure that any tank mix used is backed by manufactures, the majority issue supported mixes on their websites.

Table 1: Impact on crop vigour of different herbicide actives



Clomazone use in sugar beet

There are some clomazone products approved for pre-emergence use in Sugar beet e.g., Mohawk. No approvals for post-emergence use are available in Great Britain and this active should not be applied to sands or very light soils as there is a risk of crop damage. Use is not advised on soils with more than 10% organic matter. The label recommended rate of use is 0.2 l/ha in water volumes of

200-400 l/ha. Sipcam have provided some 'behind the label' information on weed control, it is expected to have activity on the following weeds as well as those listed on the Mohawk label.

- Fool's parsley, Scentless Mayweed, Annual Mercury, Common Poppy and Knotgrass

Clomazone belongs to a different mode of action (MOA) group to other herbicides use in sugar beet so it is useful for resistance management. Clomazone is categorised as MOA 13 by the Herbicide Resistance Action Committee. It is worth considering clomazone where annual mercury is expected.

Clomazone should be used in tank mix with other actives e.g., metamiltrone or metamiltrone + ethofumesate to broaden its weed spectrum. BBRO trials this year will include pre-emergence timings of clomazone.

Stewardship of Cruiser SB crops

There are several key conditions summarised below that must be adhered to:

- A maximum seed rate of 1.15units/ha of treated seed. If there are concerns about poor establishment and a higher rate of seed is required, untreated seed can be used but the rate of Cruiser SB treated seed must not exceed 1.15 units in each hectare drilled. It is essential to make accurate records of where all Cruiser SB treated seed is drilled within fields.
- Careful and targeted use of herbicides is required to minimise the number of flowering weeds in treated sugar beet crops and reduce the risk of indirect exposure of pollinators to neonicotinoids. The use of BASIS recommended herbicide programmes must be adopted by growers and their agronomists. Ensure all drill operators are aware of the [guidelines associated with the use of Cruiser SB treated seed](#), particularly ensuring all drilled seed is covered.
- No thiamethoxam seed treatment i.e. Cruiser SB may be used on the same field area for 46 months from the date of sowing treated sugar beet seed in 2024.

The following-crop restrictions apply for subsequent crops planted on the same area of land as Cruiser SB sugar beet drilled in 2024. This is also relevant for any fields that had Cruiser SB treated seed in 2022 or 2023.

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.

	<i>Non-restricted</i>	<i>Restricted</i>
Rules	<i>No restrictions following Sugar Beet</i>	<i>A minimum of 32 months from drilling of Sugar Beet</i>
Crops	<i>Wheat (including Durum Wheat) Barley Millet Sorghum Oat Maize / Corn Rye Triticale Canary seed Spelt Potato Cabbage Kale Swede Lettuce / Babyleaf / Spinach Onions Leeks Carrots Parsnips Cauliflower Broccoli Turnip</i>	<i>Oilseed Rape Linseed Mustard Soya Bean Pea Bean Buckwheat Clover Phacelia Chicory Radish Vetch False Flax Lucerne Sunflower Borage Sainfoin Nyger Lupins</i>



EVENTS

BeetField24 - May

14th May am - Morley, Norfolk
 14th May pm - Yaxley, Suffolk
 15th May pm - Baston, Peterborough
 16th May am - Selby, Yorkshire

2024 is forecast to be a high aphid and therefore virus year. It is vital that growers know how best to manage their own crop as every farm situation is different.

Aphid & Virus special

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14th May
Morley

14th May
Yaxley

15th May
Baston

16th May
Selby



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BASIS POINTS

Two BASIS points in total (not per bulletin) have been allocated for the period between 01/06/23 and 31/05/24 reference CP/126447/2324/g. To claim these points please email cpd@basis-reg.co.uk

Two NRoSO points in total (not per bulletin) have been allocated from 1st September 2023 to 31st August 2024 - NO500860f. To claim these points please email nroso@basis-reg.co.uk.