



17th September 2024



IN BRIEF

- Harvesting has commenced, with both Bury and Wissington now open for beet. Temperatures are still relatively warm and therefore it is best to stick to a 'just in time' delivery programme where possible or short storage to reduce respiration sugar losses.
- Some harvesters will struggle with the hard ground. We recommend following the '[Harvesting Assessment Guide](#)' and checking for losses behind the harvester.
- Also, check for surface losses of roots when conditions change or when moving between fields, soil types and varieties.
- Optimising sugar levels during harvest by ensuring crops are crowned correctly and handling as gently as possible to reduce root breakage and bruising is also important.
- Keep monitoring lifted crops in the first days after harvesting and ensure high risk crops are delivered as soon as possible.
- Ensure clamps are not too high and have low soil tare to ensure good airflow, avoid pushing up beet or levelling the top of the clamp.
- Ploughing is recommended in fields with ConvisoSmart varieties, this is to assist with the stewardship, burying beet tops and small unharvested beet at risk of re-growing.
- There is a mix of foliar diseases in-field but to date nothing of any major concern.
- Keep on top of your weed beet and bolters – if in doubt 'Pull them out!'
- Some areas have been affected by Beet moth, but this does not appear to be a widespread problem, and in most cases the larvae are appearing in areas previously affected.
- Thoughts are turning to seed orders, for further info check out the [September BeetCast](#) with Mike May, Chair of the RL Board and our [Variety traits video](#) with Dr Georgina Barratt.
- Herbicide resistance in annual broad-leaved weeds is becoming more common. Working in conjunction with ADAS and British Sugar we have produced a video update including information regarding seed collection for testing. [Herbicide resistance – seed collection for testing](#).



Maximise yield and sugar content during harvesting

Preserving sugar content during harvesting, cleaning and loading is a priority, especially whilst temperatures remain warm. Target optimum crowning, low levels of root damage and bruising, minimal time in clamp, especially large clamps containing large amounts of soil and green material. To minimise root breakage avoid running the harvester too aggressively. Assess for root breakage and bruising at the clamp. Check for any over crowning and loss of yield. Use the BBRO [‘Harvesting Assessment Guide’](#) for assessing losses. Ensure a regular dialogue between harvester and haulier and avoid leaving large clamps for longer than necessary before delivery, particularly given current temperatures. Avoid too much soil and top in clamps. Avoid leaving large clamps (more than 2m in height) with lots of soil and tops for more than a few days in warm conditions.

Foliar Diseases

Incidences of foliar disease are widespread but at a low level.

Our cercospora monitoring programme is now coming to an end, with the data collected from the spornado monitoring traps providing a clear insight into spore release. The risk forecast (based on forecasted weather conditions) has only triggered in a few areas, in which cercospora has been found. There have been pockets of cercospora found across the growing region which may be linked more to local factors.

If you are planning late lifting, you may want to consider a third fungicide to keep your canopy as healthy as possible, making the most of both late sunlight and frost protection.

Fig 1 (left) The latest results from the BBRO Spornado spore monitoring network (week 36) show the areas in which cercospora spores have been captured during the week commencing 2nd September, with no newly developed disease found in crop.

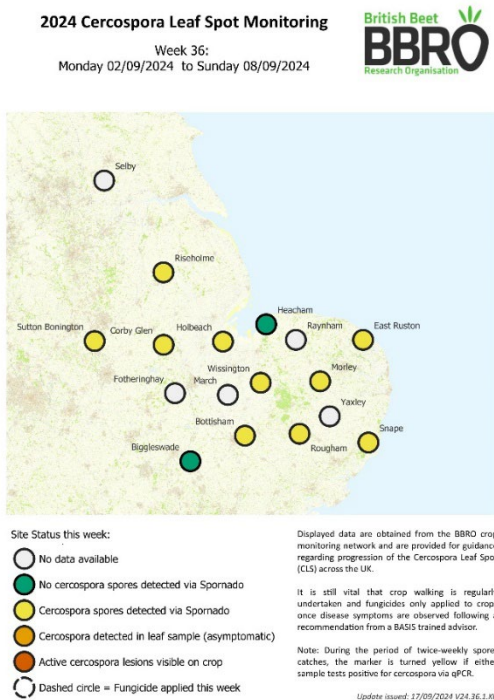
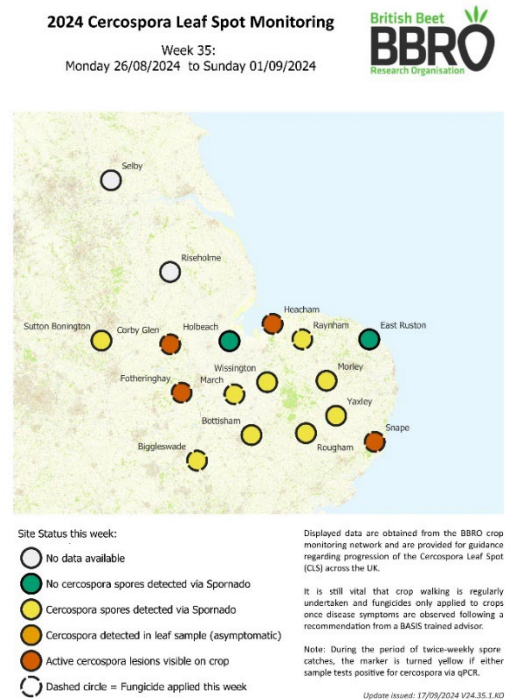


Fig 2 (right): BBRO Spornado spore monitoring network (week 35) showing widespread spore activity and infection.



The following points remain pertinent to disease control in 2024

Eight-point plan for autumn disease management

1. Know what disease(s) are in your crop in order to select the best fungicide options (see back pages for available fungicides).
2. Cercospora leaf spot appears to be an increasing problem in the UK and strains of this fungus are potentially resistant (due to QoI resistance) to strobilurin fungicides. If in doubt contact the BBRO for help with disease identification.
3. As seen from previous BBRO trials, do not apply fungicides too early, wait for early symptoms to show.
4. Conversely, do not apply products too late otherwise effective disease control will be difficult for the remainder of the season.
5. Always follow label recommendations for applying products at the correct growth stage.
6. Ensure the gap between the first and second, or second and third applications, is kept to within 28 days to prevent significant re-infection occurring between treatments.
7. Ensure water volume recommendations are adhered to and are not cut back.
8. Know where specific varieties are sown within fields to monitor any variety-disease interactions.

Weed beet and bolters

Keep on top of weed beet and bolters as these have increasingly been seen in crops. One weed beet could produce 1,500 viable seeds, this is of particular concern for anyone using Conviso Smart technology. One of the key stewardship actions to preserve the longevity of this chemistry is to ensure scrupulous removal of bolters to prevent seed shed and a problem developing where the seed bank becomes contaminated with weed beet tolerant to ALS-chemistry. Consequently planning, meticulous management and attention to detail is vital – and cost effective for all growers.

- ✓ Failure to adequately control ConvisoSmart bolters breeds a new generation of weed beet that cannot be controlled with ALS-chemistry; there are no new technologies currently in development to manage this new problem
- ✓ Begin to identify fields with bolters which will require removal and have a plan / book labour to achieve this in a timely manner
- ✓ The most effective technique is hand-pulling; this is best done when soils are moist and using a fork to help remove the whole plant (including root)
- ✓ Ideally plants should be destroyed pre-flowering and removed from the field; snapping the stem close to the base can be an option at this timing, although beware of the potential for re-growth

- ✓ If plants have started to flower, then uprooting bolters and removing from the field is vital to minimise the risk of mature seed being shed
- ✓ Bear in mind fields will need to be walked methodically (e.g. a tramline at a time) and at least twice (min. 3–4-week interval) to try and best ensure all bolters are removed

Rotational requirements for Cruiser treated crops.

Please remember 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.

[Further information available here.](#)



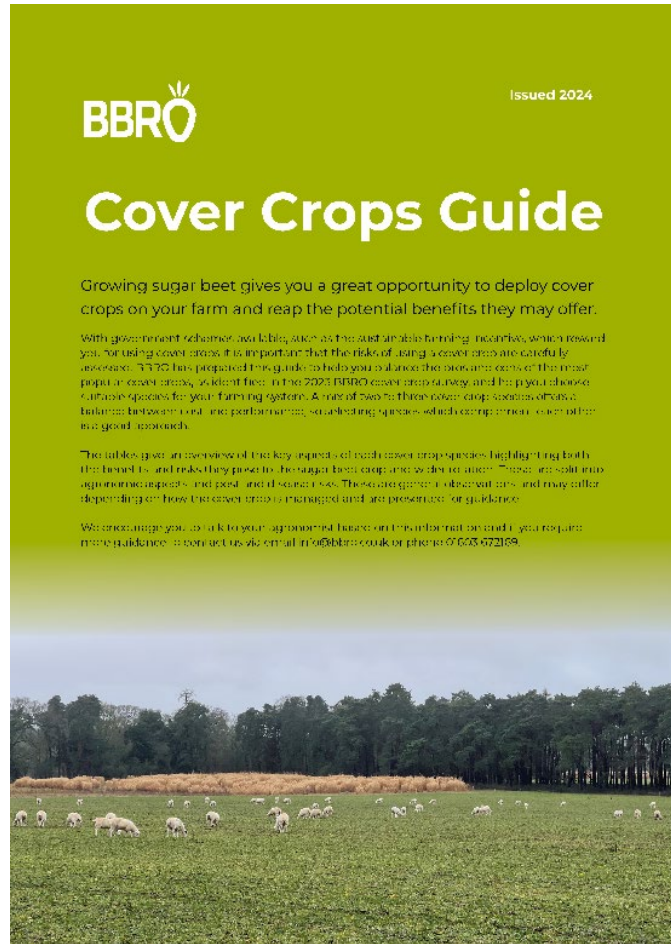
EVENTS

BASIS Advanced Sugar Beet Course, 5-day course commencing on the 29th October. Due to previous demand this course is already full, but please do register your interest as a reserve for this year or for future courses. Contact: Accounts@bbro.co.uk.

For those of you unable to join our August BeetField events, we have produced a video of the Variety Traits in the 2025 RL.



Dr Georgina Barratt also released the first edition of our Cover Crop Guide, incorporating the latest known cover crop news. This document will be updated as more information becomes available.



 CONTACTS

British Beet Research Organisation, Centrum, Norwich Research Park, Colney Lane, Norwich, NR4 7UG

Prof Mark Stevens mark.stevens@bbro.co.uk 07712 822194

Francesca Broom Francesca.broom@bbro.co.uk 07710 285689

Stephen Aldis stephen.aldis@bbro.co.uk 07867 141705

General Enquiries info@bbro.co.uk

 BASIS POINTS

Two BASIS points in total (not per bulletin) have been allocated for the period between 01/06/2024 – 31/05/2025 - CP/138145/2425/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 and NO503154f from 1st September 2024 – 31st May 2025. To claim these points please email [nrroso@basis-reg.co.uk](mailto:nroso@basis-reg.co.uk).