



18th October 2024



IN BRIEF

- There have been some reports of across field yellowing which we have identified as varietal yellowing and not virus yellows. If concerned, please contact plant.clinic@bbro.co.uk.
- Manage your lifting programme, ensuring that any crops showing signs of stress, disease or virus are lifted first, leaving your best crop to last where soil type & field access allow.
- With an increase in wet weather, we usually see an uplift in the number of root rots being reported. To date nothing has been highlighted but do check beet in wet areas and if root rots are found than prioritise for lifting.
- Want to know more about the changes to the seed account? Listen to October [Beet Cast – Seeds of Change](#)
- Also, check out our video on [varietal traits for 2025](#)

ConvisoSmart -Stewardship reminder

- ✓ Pay attention to harvester set up to minimise losses
- ✓ Ploughing is recommended to bury beet tops and small unharvested beet at risk of re-growing
- ✓ Areas used for temporary storage in the field (eg. headland) can be high risk for groundkeeper establishment. If the land is not ploughed, consider not cropping these areas and managing the regrowth with glyphosate
- ✓ Monitor for emergence of groundkeepers in subsequent crops and take action to remove before plants become well established and harder to control
- ✓ Unlike conventional varieties, remember, groundkeepers arising from Conviso[®] Smart varieties will tolerate ALS herbicides; approved chemistry from the auxin mimics (HRAC group 4) can be effective alternative treatment in cereals. Beware efficacy is not always reliable; mixtures can work best, small plants are more susceptible and plants should be actively growing at / following treatment



Varietal Yellowing

It has been noted that some varieties develop a yellowing of the canopy and is fairly uniform across the crop and is unlike virus yellows. From observations this would appear to relate to a number of seasonal factors and has been noted in previous years.

Harvest field selection

Unseasonably warm conditions have continued to allow crops to remain green and productive, helping to further improve root yield and sugar content. Experience shows that whilst conditions remain conducive to growth, selecting the best crops to optimise yield potential, can still be worth an additional 5-10% of yield in November. Therefore, inspect fields closely before deciding on which field to lift first. There are several pointers that could help you to recover more yield:

1. Consider lifting crop in heavy land or poor draining soil early
2. Monitor canopy cover for damage; foliar diseases, virus and/or beet moth. The weakest canopy should be lifted first as it will be less likely to benefit from autumn growth and more at risk from frost
3. Areas with poor establishment should be next in line. The crop is unlikely to fill out and the poor patches are likely to be more susceptible to disease or frost damage.

Preserving sugar content is very important, especially whilst temperatures remain warm. Keep harvest and clamping damage to a minimum to reduce sugar loss whilst also targeting optimum crowning for root recovery whilst not delivering excessive green material.

Whilst 'just in time' deliveries will be the most beneficial, it may be that a short-term clamp is required. With temperatures still relatively warm ensure these are not piled too high, allowing for as much air flow as possible and avoid too much soil and green material in clamps.

See our handy [Harvester assessment guide](#) for more information.



Fig 1: Avoid leaving large clamps (more than 2m in height) with lots of soil and tops for more than a few days in warm conditions.

Root rots – To date we have not received any reports of root rots, but we would urge growers to monitor crops carefully for incidence. A change to wetter conditions may encourage secondary infection, so ensure crops with any rots are harvested and delivered as soon as possible to avoid further losses. Check carefully for root rots in crops where beet moth feeding may have damaged the crown.

Soil health assessments – Autumn is the ideal time to make your soil health assessments. It is simple and practical to undertake, and it will provide essential information on the health status of your soil. Not only will this allow you to build up your records, an essential part of the ELMS and SFI initiative, it will also allow you to identify where soil health improvement may be required as well as allowing you to compare the effectiveness of any soil health improvement practices you have already deployed. BBRO data shows that sugar beet responds very well to improving soil health, with better yields and greater resilience to challenges such as drought.

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

Diary dates:

BeetTech25 – Details deliver

9:00-12:45

4th February Norfolk Showground

11th February Newark Showground

BBRO Drill Training

13:30 – 16:45

4th February Norfolk Showground

11th February Newark Showground

Booking to open shortly.



CONTACTS

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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 nroso@basis-reg.co.uk.