



16<sup>th</sup> January 2025



## IN BRIEF

Have you taken part in the BBRO Growers survey? We would love to hear what you think about the service you receive from us. If you can spare a few minutes, please take part

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NM9W558>

- First hard frosts seen across most of the growing region. **Urgent attention** is required as sudden warmer temperatures have accelerated deterioration of crops affected. Growers urged to check **all** crops as levels of damage vary considerably from field to field
- Now is the time to be planning your early herbicide use. Think about the issues faced in each field in 2024 and watch our helpful video of the [BBRO Herbicide trials](#), delivered by Pam Chambers, British Sugar
- [BBRO BeetCast - BeetCast January: Concentrating on the detail for 2025 | RSS.com](#)



## ADVISORY

### Frost impact

Most growers experienced quite sharp frosts over the weekend, whilst the initial damage may have been minor, the following sudden rise in temperature could accelerate the rate of deterioration. It is therefore important to check your crops in the next couple of days as the extent of damage may not have been obvious at the start of the week.

### Beet in field

- Check every field. Don't assume they have reacted to the cold weather in the same way.
- Dig and slice roots across the whole field, concentrating in low lying areas and where the sun has not come into contact with beet i.e. under hedgerow and treelines.
- Frost damaged roots once lifted should not put into long term storage, make sure your haulier can deliver before you lift any damage roots.
- Keep checking fields and clamps for any further deterioration, particularly in fluctuating temperatures

- Where high levels of damage are found lowering the scalpers during harvesting to remove frost damaged crowns
- Harvest with care to reduce further damage
- Keep time between lifting and delivery to a minimum.

For further support view our video: [Managing the impact of frost](#)

With periods of unseasonably warm weather and constant fluctuations in temperature, it is also important to closely manage unaffected crops by keeping the time beet is clamped prior to delivery to a minimum. This will help to preserve sugar levels and reduce rot roots.

Minimising root breakage when harvesting is key to avoiding accelerated sugar losses. The average sugar beet clamp loss rates are usually at 0.1% of total sugar volume/day but in poorly harvested and handled crops sugar loss can be 3-4 times greater. Losses will be even greater where temperatures are above 10°C. Some clamps have been pushed excessively high over recent weeks, leading to severe root rotting, figure 1 (right).



Make sure there is someone regularly checking on the condition of beet at the clamp.

Follow these guidelines to minimise sugar losses:

- When planning a Maus clamp, calculate the estimated tonnage and length, to avoid overspill into unsuitable areas
- Choose a firm, well-drained site which will be suitable for loading and unloading
- Clamps should be built in an open area to aid ventilation and cooling
- Never push beet up the face of the clamp. This will damage beet, compact the clamp and restrict air movement, allowing heat to build-up and increase rate of sugar loss.



Figure 2: Damaged beet will deteriorate quickly in clamp

See our handy [Harvester assessment guide](#) for our 3-step guide to assessing harvesting losses to help maximise yields and returns.

## Water-logged crops

Unfortunately, another weather impact is a number of water-logged crops. Sugar beet, like many crops has an ability to withstand water logging for a short period of time. The amount of time that the crop is underwater is key as this will affect the extent of anaerobic conditions the roots are exposed to. After this time there is an increased risk of 'hypoxia' in plants leading to cell death. There is no precise critical period that roots remain unaffected as temperature, soil sediment levels and soil structure (soil aeration) will have an influence, but the crop should be able to tolerate 5-7 days underwater.



## EVENTS

Diary dates: Click on images to book a place

**Details deliver**

British Beet  
**BBRO** BeetTech25  
Research Organisation

% of crop affected

Possible impacts on the crop	% of crop affected
Pests	35
Variety	25
Soil type	25
Ploughage	40
Nutrient deficiencies	35
Weather	30

**Session 1: The checklist**  
Four short practical sessions on the 'must knows' for 2025 season  
Aphid control - herbicide use - foliar disease management - cover crop destruction

**Session 2: Data driven decisions**  
An overview of trials work and results and how to use the data to shape on-farm decisions  
optimising fertilizer use - limiting aphid impact - revisiting rhicomania - cercospora monitoring - varieties and resistance

Tuesday 4th February - Norfolk Showground  
Tuesday 11th February - Newark Showground  
8:30 arrival for 9am start, 12:45 finish

BOOK: [www.bbro.co.uk/events](http://www.bbro.co.uk/events)

Special afternoon session to follow  
BeetTech events:  
**DRILL OPERATOR TRAINING**  
for better establishment and improved crop performance

A successful sugar beet harvest begins with the preparation of the seed bed and ensuring optimum performance of both drill and operator.

This course is open to all sugar beet drill operators, providing the basic principles of drill set-up for all models.

**Sessions to include:**

- Practical soil management
- Cultivation techniques for the perfect seed bed
- Pelleting and seeds
- Drill maintenance for optimum performance

Book online at: [www.bbro.co.uk/events](http://www.bbro.co.uk/events)

Tuesday 4th February 2024 - Norfolk Showground  
Tuesday 11th February 2024 - Newark Showground

Arrival 13:00, commence 13:30-16:30  
Lunch will be provided  
Presentations and practical support from:



## 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](mailto: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](mailto:nroso@basis-reg.co.uk).