



21st February 2025

IN BRIEF

- Harvest is coming to an end across the area, with positive reports regarding yield and sugars which have remained fairly steady around 16-17% for the latter part of the season.
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- Current cold spell has reduced concerns re aphid migration and potential impact of virus yellows on the 2025 crop. The VY Forecast will be released in early March, which will predict the approx. arrival of aphids in the crop.
- The 2026 RL has now been released and is available via the [BBRO website](#).
- Sulphur deficiency - plants deficient in sulphur cannot make full use of the available nitrogen. Sulphur should be applied in situations where there is little, or no organic manures being applied in the rotation or on lighter soil types – see Advisory notes for more detail.
- BeetTech25 video recordings of platform presentations available for download.

- **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.](#)
- [BBRO February BeetCast: Detail, Detail, Detail – delivers.](#)

Looking ahead to drilling it's a good time to think about nutrition, a question we received at BeetTech was 'Should I be applying sulphur to my sugar beet crop?' so here is our guidance.

Historically, sulphur deficiency in crops was not a significant concern due to atmospheric deposition. Eastern England used to receive around 70kg/ha of sulphur, but clean air legislation has reduced that to 5kg/year. Like nitrate, sulphate is readily leached from the soil so must be replaced on a regular basis. This means that sulphur applications can benefit sugar beet crops in many situations.

Sulphur deficiency presents very similarly to nitrogen deficiency as plants deficient in sulphur cannot make full use of the available nitrogen. The difference with sulphur deficiency is the younger leaves show symptoms first as the nutrient has poor mobility in the plant.

Sulphur should be applied in situations where there is little or no organic manures being applied in the rotation or on lighter soil types (sands, sandy loams, shallow soils etc.) or in situations where yields are expected to exceed 80t/ha.

Where sulphate containing fertilisers are likely needed consider applying 25-60kg SO₃ depending on the likelihood of deficiency. This can be estimated based on symptoms in more sensitive crops such as OSR and barley.

Sulphur can be applied in the seedbed or through foliar application using a range of products. Nitrogen fertilisers containing sulphates are convenient option enabling timely application of sulphur at the same time as nitrogen.



EVENTS

BeetTech25 videos available for download.

[Event welcome – Prof Mark Stevens](#)

[Project Goliath and CropWatch \(Delivering the Detail\) – Dr Alistair Wright](#)

[Revisiting Rhizomania – Dr Suzannah Harder](#)

[Knowing Nitrogen – Dr Georgina Barratt](#)



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