



5th March 2025

IN BRIEF

- Rothamsted Virus Yellows (VY) forecast received – the national VY forecast is 16.9% at the end of August without any control strategies applied to crops. This forecast is 66% lower than 2024, thanks to the colder winter.
- Anticipated first arrived date of *Myzus persicae* is 12th May, some 6 weeks later than 2024.
- [BeetCast March: Covering off cover crops and planning early weed control](#)
- Prepping for drilling? Watch our video from the recent drill training events for some handy hints and reminders. [Available here](#)
- The 2026 RL has now been released and is available via the [BBRO website](#)
- Join the online BeetChat 21st March
- **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.](#)

ADVISORY

Virus Yellows Forecast

The Rothamsted Virus Yellows forecast was released on the 4th March. It is important to remember that this forecasts the proportion of the crop that is expected to show virus yellows symptoms in the absence of **any** control measures.

The forecasted incidence of virus yellows for 2025 is 16.9%.

The date of the first arrival of aphids in crops in 2025 is forecasted from 12th May.

Crops will need careful monitoring for aphids from early May onwards, with a need for a foliar insecticide application where the thresholds are exceeded. The threshold for foliar insecticide treatment is: 1 green wingless aphid per 4 plants up to the 12-leaf stage (please check a minimum of 20 plants per area – 5 aphids per 20 plants). After the 12-leaf stage the threshold is 1 green wingless aphid per plant.

Foliar insecticides available for 2025

We currently have two foliar insecticides available acetamiprid (InSyst) and flonicamid (either Teppeki or Afinto – but not both), with an emergency authorisation for a third aphicide spray being progressed.

Avoid using pyrethroids where at all possible, especially in the early phases of crop growth. Not only are aphids highly resistant to pyrethroids, but their use will also impact on the build of beneficials such as lacewing and ladybird larvae.

Monitoring

BBRO will be undertaking comprehensive aphid monitoring of crops in this period and will be assessing thresholds for foliar treatments. This information will be available on the BBRO website and regularly updated. It is recommended that you view the latest information at least twice weekly and use these as a guide as to when you should check your own crops. However, it is also essential that you assess aphid levels in each of your sugar beet crops so any foliar insecticide can be carefully targeted to provide effective control of aphids.

Mature plant resistance

The earlier the crop is drilled (subject to the right conditions) the quicker it will reach mature plant resistance to aphids and hence virus transmission. From about the 12-leaf stage, aphid multiplication is gradually reduced therefore reducing the further spread of virus both within and between crops. The 12-leaf stage is reached approximately 40-50 days after emergence and when the crop is about 50% crop cover. However, this depends considerably on growing conditions such as temperature and soil moisture and variety growth habit. As a guide and using average seedbed and growing conditions, a crop drilled in the last week of March would reach the 10-12-leaf stage in early June.

Take control now

The most important action you can take over the next few weeks is to destroy all potential sources of virus on farm. Make sure there is no leaf growth on roots left behind at clamp sites or growing from root fragments in spoil heaps. Check previous Maus clamp locations for new growth as well. The warm conditions are encouraging some rapid growing conditions. Check previous sugar beet fields for groundkeepers and spray off any new growth. Any neighbouring fodder beet clamps with active leaf growth may also be a source of virus. Ensure all pre-sugar beet cover crops are fully destroyed. This should have been completed by now to ensure a minimum 4-5 week gap before drilling sugar beet. Watch out for new growth on old clamp sites and spoil heaps. Destroy growth before aphids arrive.



EVENTS



BeetChat online 21st March 10:30

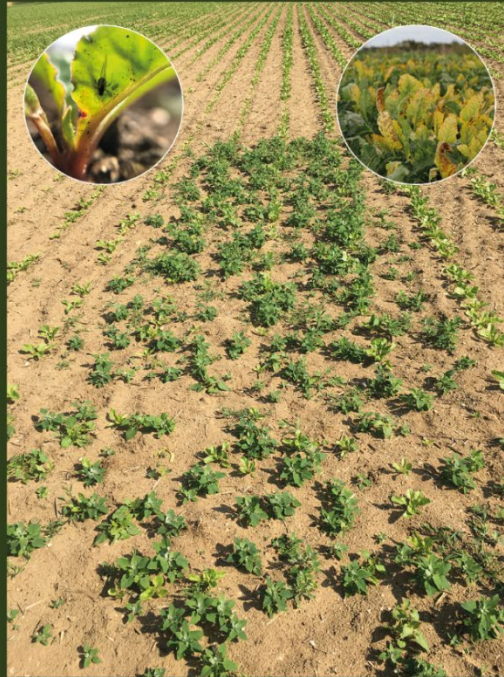
Aphid and Virus Yellows management
Crop monitoring
Pre and post emergence herbicide use

Got a question?
Send to info@bbro.co.uk and we'll do
our best to answer.

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With Prof. Mark Stevens and
Pam Chambers (British Sugar)



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 nroso@basis-reg.co.uk.