



Issued: 26th April 2023



IN BRIEF

STOP PRESS:

The first *Myzus persicae* has been identified at Morley in a BBRO water trap on the 25th April.

- Unsettled weather has led to a protracted drilling season, resulting in fields across the area at varied stages of emergence and growth. However, once drilled crops are emerging evenly and quickly across each individual field, along with rapidly growing weeds so monitor each field closely and don't delay with starting herbicide programmes.
- Be mindful of crop stresses such as low temperatures, frost and wind damage when applying post-emergence herbicides. Adjust active and adjuvant mixes and rates to minimise the risk of herbicide damage.
- It is estimated that over 70% of crops are now drilled, with heavier loams and silts remaining a challenge. Continue to be patient and ensure soils are sufficiently dry at depth before final cultivation and drilling.
- Keep cultivation equipment and drills free of sticking and compacted soil to optimise performance and help with drilling accuracy. Continue to monitor seed depth and spacing regularly, especially when working in more challenging soil conditions.
- Ensure beet drills are not causing excessive compaction in the sidewalls of the seed trench and whilst it is important to cover and consolidate with closing wheels ensure this isn't compacting wet soil on top of the seed. Reduce pressure or change closing angle where possible to ensure seedlings are able to emerge.
- No reports of aphids (*Myzus persicae*) in crops yet with recent wet and colder weather delaying their arrival, although there is early indication of general low level aphid activity in the national network of suction traps.



ADVISORY

Early crop establishment

A protracted and rain-disrupted drilling season has resulted in a wide range of emergence dates and growth stages. Despite recent colder temperatures, soils remain warm (8-10°C) with plenty of moisture, and crops are emerging quickly and evenly after drilling. Where seedbeds are warm, emergence may be within 10 days of drilling so keep checking crops regularly to manage pre/post emergence herbicide timings.

Recent frost in some areas, especially in low-lying fields or known 'frost pockets', may cause concern about damage to emerging or emerged seedlings. Whilst the frost was not severe, check for any signs of damage (leaf wilting and blackening) but leave for 2-3 days for recovery before making any decisions.



Aphid update

The BBRO aphid monitoring network in sugar beet crops will be going live from the 28th of April. It is anticipated that non-Cruiser treated crops may require a foliar insecticide at quite an early stage this season. It is essential to monitor emerged non-Cruiser treated crops closely from now on. Remember the threshold of 1 green wingless aphid per 4 plants (5 aphids per 20 plants) is the trigger for application. Aphid numbers can vary within and between fields, so it is important to check crops carefully.

Remember that all Cruiser-treated seed must be drilled at a maximum rate of 1.15 units/ha. This is a statutory requirement. If a higher seed rate is required in more challenging conditions, you can use non-Cruiser treated seed. Mark up all different varieties clearly showing where any Cruiser SB treated, and non-Cruiser SB seed has been drilled. Also, remember to clearly mark up where any Conviso SMART varieties have been sown.

Herbicide use – Pam Chambers British Sugar

Where frost or wind damage is likely then allow 2 or 3 days for the crop to recover and 'harden' up and then spray. Ethofumesate is likely to be the active causing the most damage at this stage of the crop so be careful with rates and make sure you have manufacturers' support for tank mixes.

Where emerging crops are not under any stress and weeds are present then don't delay with herbicides, be a day early rather than a day late.

Sugar beet herbicide labels and crop growth stages

Sugar beet herbicides in "conventional" crops where a 'normal' herbicide programme is being followed need to commence as soon as weeds have emerged. The choice of product is influenced by the weeds present, crop safety and label restrictions (Table 1). Where tank mixes are being used make sure there is support from manufacturers. When following a 2 spray 'broad-acre' programme spraying should not commence before the crop is at 1st true leaf 1cm. Do not use 'broad-acre' if you have knot-grass!

Table 1. Growth stage restrictions for selected beet herbicides

Example Products	Active (s)	Label restrictions regarding crop growth stage
Betanal Tandem	ethofumesate phenmedipham	majority of crop plants have reached the fully expanded cotyledon stage.

Betasana SC	phenmedipham	All varieties of sugar beet can be sprayed at any stage of growth if healthy
Debut	triflurosulfuron-methyl	From the early cotyledon stage
Efeckt	ethofumesate	No label restrictions but check for supported rates when used in tank mixes. See manufacturers information.
Goltix 70 SC	metamitron	The size of the beet does not matter provided the crop is not under stress
Goltix Titan	metamitron quinmerac	Cotyledons completely unfolded
Tanaris/Topkat	dimethenamid-p quinmerac	When the majority of the crop has two expanded cotyledons
Venzar 500 SC	lenacil	From the early cotyledon stage

Top dressed Nitrogen

Make sure any top-dressed nitrogen is applied in good time for the nitrogen to be washed down sufficiently into the soil. Target final top dressing with nitrogen to be completed by full emergence.



EVENTS

[Book for May Demo farm events](#)

BEETING THE CHALLENGE

2023 BeetField events



Supporting growers to push the
crop and gain rewards

Morley

Yaxley

Fincham

Brace-
bridge

May 2023 - 1 hour visits

16th - Morley, Norfolk 8:30, 9:30 or 10:30

16th - Yaxley, Suffolk 14:00, 15:00 or 16:00

18th - Bracebridge 8:30, 9:30 or 10:30

18th - Fincham, King's Lynn 14:00, 15:00 or 16:00

- Aphid and virus management
- On-farm monitoring - Beet moth, cercospora and more
- Soil score card - practical help
- 2024 Varieties in action

Book: www.bbro.co.uk/events



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