



Issued: 6th October 2023



IN BRIEF

- Warm and wet conditions have allowed foliar diseases to increase in crops although in general, fungicides are holding back disease development, especially in comparison to any untreated crops or untreated area of crops.
- It is vital to continue to monitor **the level of disease** in crops as this is key information to deciding on the need for a further fungicide (T3 in many crops) **Harvest date, interval from last spray** and **varietal susceptibility** should also be factored into the decision.
- In general, a third fungicide has been shown to be beneficial in crops destined for harvest after Christmas, especially where foliar disease is established, and the variety is more susceptible to rust and cercospora.
- Remember, as well as driving further yield increase, a healthy canopy will also provide better frost protection for later harvested crops.
- Sugar levels are beginning to improve in many crops and continuing warm conditions will encourage further increases.
- Preserving sugar content during harvesting, cleaning and loading is a priority, especially whilst temperatures remain warm. Target optimum crowning and minimal root damage. Keep the time in clamp to a minimum of a few days, especially large clamps containing lots of soil and green material.



ADVISORY

Foliar disease

Warm and wet conditions have allowed foliar diseases to increase in crops with rust development generally being greater than cercospora at this stage of the season. Sometimes both symptoms can be found on the same leaf.

Fig 1 (right): Mostly rust with some cercospora symptoms visible on the same leaf a typical example of this season's canopy.



Whilst cooler temperatures and fungicides have helped prevent further rapid wider cercospora infection in crops, the severity of earlier infected plants has increased (see Figure 2) demonstrating how the symptoms can continue to progress. Whilst persistent leaf wetness is a factor, new BBRO work is looking at the cercospora strains present in crops to understand whether these are more adapted to UK conditions and, any indication of fungicide resistance.

In many cases this season, disease establishment can be traced to extended intervals between fungicides (especially T1 and T2) and especially where reduced fungicides rates have been used.

It is vital to continue to monitor **the level of disease** in crops as this is key information to deciding on the need for a further fungicide (T3 in many crops) **Harvest date, interval from last spray** and **varietal susceptibility** should also be factored into the decision. Access the RL list for the variety disease infection scores.

In general, a third fungicide has been shown to be beneficial in crops destined for harvest after Christmas, especially where foliar disease is established, and the variety is more susceptible. Ensure you adhere to the harvest interval requirement for any further fungicide applications. See Fig 3.

Remember a healthy canopy will additionally provide better frost protection for later harvested crops.

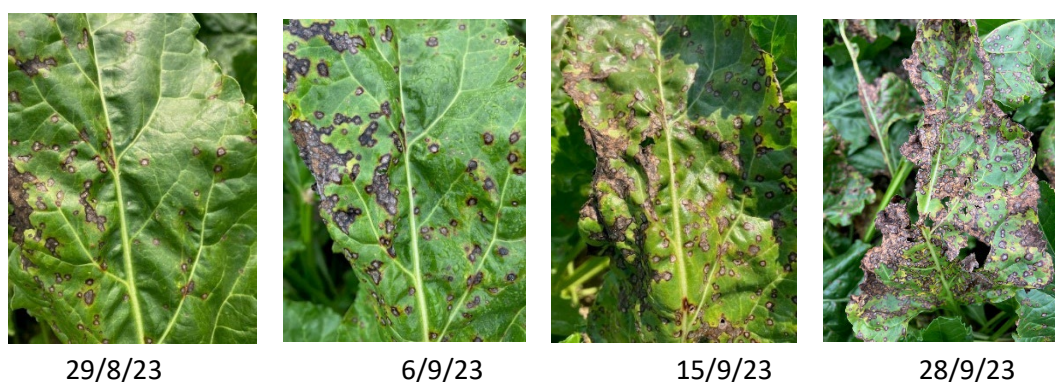


Fig 2: Progression of cercospora infection (untreated) on the same leaf during August and September

Product	Max No. Apps	Max Ind. Dose l or kg ha/yr	Max Total Dose l or kg ha/yr	Active (triazole)	g ai l or kg	Active (strobilurin)	g ai l or kg	Active (SDHI)	g ai l or kg	HI (days)	Water Volume l/ha	Spray Quality
Angle, Priori Gold	2	1	NS	difenoconazole	125	azoxystrobin	125			35	200-400	Medium
Caligula	1	1.2	1.2	prothioconazole	125			fluopyram	125	7	200-300	Medium
Impact	1	0.5	0.5	flutriafol	125					28	Min 200	Medium
Kumulus DF, SOLFA	2	10	NS	sulphur						End Aug	Min 250	Medium
Microthiol Special	2	10	NS	sulphur	800					End Sept	200-600	Medium
Revystar XE	2	1.0	NS	mefentrifluconazole	100			fluxapyroxad	47.5	28	150-400	Medium
Thiopron (be aware of buffer zone restrictions)	2	9.7	NS	sulphur	825					NS	200-600	Medium

Fig 3: Fungicide options for 2023 (View [BBRO Crop Protection options-2023](#))

Maximise yield and sugar content during harvesting

Preserving sugar content during harvesting, cleaning and loading is a priority, especially whilst temperatures remain warm. Target optimum crowning, low levels of root damage and bruising, minimal time in clamp, especially large clamps containing large amounts of soil and green material.

To minimise root breakage avoid running the harvester too aggressively. Assess for root breakage and bruising at the clamp. Check for any over crowning and loss of yield. Use the BBRO 'ready-reckoner' for assessing losses.

Ensure a regular dialogue between harvester and haulier and avoid leaving large clamps for longer than necessary before delivery, particularly given current temperatures. Avoid too much soil and top in clamps. Check cleaner loaders are working correctly and not causing any damage.



Fig 6: Avoid leaving large clamps (more than 2m in height) with lots of soil and tops for more than a few days in warm conditions.



EVENTS

Thank you for supporting our recent events. For those of you that missed the September Demo farm visits we have released two videos one on foliar diseases and one on variety choices. These are both accessible below, alongside our monthly podcast with October discussing the BBRO Virus Yellows trials. Click on images to access.



September 2023 Canopy close-up with Prof Mark Stevens



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BASIS POINTS

Two BASIS points in total (not per bulletin) have been allocated for the period between 01/06/23 and 31/05/24 reference CP/126447/2324/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. To claim these points please email nroso@basis-reg.co.uk.