



Issued: 1st March 2024

Advisory Bulletin Special

Dedicated to virus yellows, aphids, and the use of Cruiser SB seed treatment.

The 2024 Virus Yellows forecast:

The virus yellows forecast was released on the first of 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. It is a national forecast.

- The forecasted incidence of virus yellows for 2024 is 83%.
- The date of first arrival of aphids in crops in 2024 is forecasted from the 10th of April.
- The forecasted virus level is above the threshold of 65% required to trigger the use of Cruiser SB on seed in 2024.
- In 2023, the forecast was 67.5% with a threshold of 63% and aphid arrival date of 22nd of April. Seed treatment was applied to 60% of the crop in 2023.

Key questions and answers re the virus yellows situation in 2024

- **Does the virus forecast trigger the use of Cruiser SB?**
Yes, the forecast of 83% is above the threshold of 65% required by the conditions for the Emergency Authorisation on the use of Cruiser SB in 2024. Where requested, treatment of seed with Cruiser SB will commence as soon as possible.
- **When can I expect Cruiser SB treated seed to arrive on farm?**
Cruiser SB treated seed deliveries are expected to be on farm by the end of W/C **08/04/24**.
- **Growers who opt for their seed to be treated with Force only should have their seed delivered on farm by the end of W/C 04/03/24.**
- **How long will Cruiser SB treatment protect my crops?**
Use of Cruiser SB seed treatment will protect crops for up to 10 weeks from drilling. Therefore, for crops drilled on different dates, the period of protection will be as follows:

Drill date

8th April - 17th June

15th April - 24th June

22nd April - 1st July

The virus yellows forecast estimates the average winged aphid arrival date as 10th April. Cruiser SB will provide good protection against virus transmission from aphids arriving in April onwards.

- **Are there conditions relating to the use of Cruiser treated seed in 2024?**
There are several key conditions summarised below that must be adhered to:

- ❖ **A maximum seed rate of 1.15units/ha of treated seed.** If there are concerns about poor establishment and a higher rate of seed is required, untreated seed can be used but the rate of Cruiser SB treated seed must not exceed 1.15 units in each hectare drilled. It is essential to make accurate records of where all Cruiser SB treated seed is drilled within fields.
- ❖ **Careful and targeted use of herbicides** is required to minimise the number of flowering weeds in treated sugar beet crops and reduce the risk of indirect exposure of pollinators to neonicotinoids. The use of BASIS recommended herbicide programmes must be adopted by growers and their agronomists.
- ❖ **Fodder, energy, and red beet are not included** as part of the derogation to ensure the 'controlled and limited' element of the Emergency Authorisation.
- ❖ **Strict adherence to the 32-month restriction on the growing of flowering crops (see Table below)** Note that this includes cover crop species. Any crop excluded from the table above should be considered 'restricted' i.e., subject to a minimum of 32-month interval from drilling sugar beet. Agri-environment options that allow flowers to grow or appear must follow this 32-month restriction.

	Non-restricted	Restricted
Rules	No restrictions following Sugar Beet	A minimum of 32 months from drilling of Sugar Beet
Crops	1. Wheat (including Durum Wheat) 2. Barley 3. Millet 4. Sorghum 5. Oat 6. Maize / Corn 7. Rye 8. Triticale 9. Canary seed 10. Spelt 11. Potato 12. Cabbage 13. Kale 14. Swede 15. Lettuce / Babyleaf / Spinach 16. Onions 17. Leeks 18. Carrots 19. Parsnips 20. Cauliflower 21. Broccoli 22. Turnip	23. Oilseed Rape 24. Linseed 25. Mustard 26. Soya Bean 27. Pea 28. Bean 29. Buckwheat 30. Clover 31. Phacelia 32. Chicory 33. Radish 34. Vetch 35. False Flax 36. Lucerne 37. Sunflower 38. Borage 39. Sainfoin 40. Nyger 41. Lupins

- **Will I still need to use foliar insecticides where I have use Cruiser SB treated seed?**

Depending on aphid numbers in late May and June, Cruiser SB treated crops may require additional foliar insecticides. It is recommended to start monitoring Cruiser SB treated crops for aphids from 8 weeks after drilling and follow the BBRO 2024 aphid monitoring data on the BBRO website and via the weekly BBRO bulletins too.

- **Will non-Cruiser treated seed need foliar insecticides?**

Non-Cruiser SB treated crops are at risk of virus infection and will need careful monitoring for aphids from early April onwards. **Careful monitoring is essential** and BBRO will provide more details and information on aphid monitoring and the use of foliar insecticides in subsequent Advisory Bulletins.

- **What other actions can I take at this stage to reduce aphid numbers and virus transmission in 2024, especially if I am not using Cruiser SB treated seed?**

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.

Based on current soil conditions it is likely that drilling will be later than usual, although a warmer drier spell could get land 'back on track'. It is anticipated that later drilling and the

predicted earlier migration of aphids will mean that non-Cruiser SB treated crops will be at a relatively young and susceptible stage of growth when aphids begin to arrive. BBRO will provide information on other potential actions and interventions ahead of drilling in subsequent Advisory Bulletins.

A promotional banner for a 'BeetChat' session. The top part has a green background with white text: 'Got a question? Join our on-line discussion session' and the 'British Beet BBRO Research Organisation' logo. Below this is a photograph of a sugar beet field under a blue sky. Overlaid on the photo is the text: 'BeetChat Monday 4th March: 13:00 - 14:00 Preparing for 2024 sugar beet season including Virus yellows forecast Click here for easy access'. A cartoon beet character with a face and a red smile is positioned on the right side of the photo.

Got a question?
Join our on-line discussion session

British Beet
BBRO
Research Organisation

BeetChat
Monday 4th March:
13:00 - 14:00
Preparing for 2024 sugar beet
season including Virus yellows forecast
Click here for easy access



CONTACTS

British Beet Research Organisation, Centrum, Norwich Research Park, Colney Lane,
Norwich, NR4 7UG

Prof Mark Stevens mark.stevens@bbro.co.uk 07712 822194

Dr Simon Bowen simon.bowen@bbro.co.uk 07718 422717

Stephen Aldis stephen.aldis@bbro.co.uk 07867 141705

General Enquiries info@bbro.co.uk



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