



Drought Recovery

As crops receive long awaited rainfall they will show signs of canopy recovery. Many crops will remain pale and it may seem tempting to apply foliar nutrition. Avoid doing this as it will reduce sugar content and instead focus on protecting the existing canopy with a robust fungicide programme.

Foliar Diseases

Disease levels are currently low, with powdery mildew being most prevalent. First fungicides have been applied in most cases.

Click on image (Top right) to watch our latest video and monitor updates via [CropWatch](#).

Beet moth

Populations of beet moth have increased due to the dry weather conditions and droughted crop. Research to find controls is underway. 2026 data indicate that Hallmark is **not** effective in the control of beet moth and will halt beneficial activity.

If chemical control is required, use Coragen (EA Expires 30th September) as trial results show it has best efficacy, However, do not tank mix Coragen with fungicides. Coragen requires high water volumes to achieve optimum efficacy, which could reduce the effectiveness of the fungicide.

Beet Armyworm Caterpillars

BBRO are aware that caterpillars of this species are now causing damage in some crops (after earlier reports of activity in the South and West of the country). Inspect crops if signs of leaf loss and/or feeding can be seen. Updates will be issued if pressure continues to develop



Beneficials will help in the control of beet moth



Leaf damage caused by Beet Armyworm

Further Information:

Factfiles:

[Beet Moth](#), [2026 Fungicide Options](#), [Cover Crops](#) and [BCN](#)

BBRO [CropWatch](#) – Weather Stations, Beet Moth & Disease Mapping

BeetCast August:

Apologies there is no BeetCast this month but please do join us in-field instead for a face-to-face discussion and timely crop info.



Beet Your Best Target Six: Foliar disease

It's a busy time on farm but don't forget to think about foliar diseases in your sugar beet. See [2026 Fungicide Options Factfile](#)

BBRO Suggestions:

1. Check your most susceptible varieties first – See [BBRO RL](#) for variety ratings.
2. Spray T1 fungicide at first signs of either powdery mildew, rust or cercospora leaf spot.
3. Start with a product with broad spectrum efficacy against all diseases (e.g. Revystar XE)
4. Re-inspect 2-3 weeks after first spray and be prepared to spray again when required.
5. Rotate modes of action (e.g. swap to QoI containing Priori Gold/Angle at T2) and always follow full label rates to minimise resistance developing.
6. Use T3 on crops being harvested from mid-November (Use second SDHI e.g. Revystar XE or Caligula depending on calendar date and harvest interval for best results)

TARGET SIX: FOLIAR DISEASES





When do you start inspecting your crop for foliar disease?

Check crops regularly from late June for early signs of infections of rust, powdery mildew and cercospora.



Are you prepared for timely applications?

It's important to spray a fungicide as soon as possible once disease is spotted. Get fungicide on farm ahead of time and plan follow-up sprays 3 weeks later.



How do you choose your fungicide & rate?

Rotate chemistry and use full label rates to manage resistance and prolong efficacy. Consider a three-spray programme for crops lifted from Mid-November.




BCN

Sugar beet may be showing signs of infestations of beet cyst nematode (premature wilting and bearded/busy root systems). Levels of infection appear severe this year due to warm and damp conditions in spring, followed by the dry summer. If you suspect an infection, pull up some plants and look for the characteristic lemon-shaped cysts on lateral roots. Make a note of infested fields and ensure you grow BCN tolerant varieties in these fields in the future.

Remember, cysts may be visible on tolerant varieties: (e.g. Daphna, Harryetta KWS, Katjana KWS, Button, Hoopoe & Smart Nelda KWS) but there will be fewer cysts and less damage than on a susceptible variety. Extend your rotation (allowing natural population decline) and remove BCN conducive cover crops (e.g. Stubble turnips or non-resistant mustards/radishes) if you suspect a BCN infestation. Trials have shown that population does decline with the use of **Class 1** radish and mustards. See [BCN](#) & [Cover Crops](#) Fact files and if you have concerns about BCN on tolerant sugar beet contact BBRO's Plant Clinic.



BBRO In-field - August 2026

25th August (9:00 or 11:00) - Rauceby, Lincolnshire
26th August (9:00 or 11:00) - Morley, Norfolk
27th August (9:00 or 11:00) - Linton, Cambs

Join us for:

- Foliar disease control
- Cover crops
- Variety choice
- Harvest info and autumn cultivations
- Weed control performance 2026
- Opportunity to network with BBRO, breeders and fellow growers

BASIS and NRoSO points available

[BOOK HERE](#)

Events:

Join us at our forthcoming field events in August. Click on image (left) to book.

Thinking about varieties for 2027? View our variety strips at the field events or for a sneak preview of varietal discussions click below link: [2027 Varieties](#)