Beet Moth Control Guidance:

Use of Coragen in 2026

Issued June 5th 2026

Urgent update:

Beet Moth have been seen migrating into sugar beet crops across the southern half of the growing area in recent weeks – See MothWatch Maps.

Early migrating adults will have been able to lay their eggs in crops, and the larvae, which have now hatched, are causing early feeding damage.

An emergency authorisation for the use of Coragen (Chlorantraniliprole) has been granted by HSE. It is authorised for use from the 3rd June 2026 for 120 days and must be applied before the 30thSeptember. Please see the full details of the emergency authorisation and the conditions for its use from HSE.

Important: Avoid the use of pyrethroids to control Beet Moth: Virus yellows and aphid pressure is still extremely high and pyrethroids will exacerbate the spread of virus in crops.

Important notes on the usage of Coragen:

- It can only be applied once per crop.
- There is a 21-day harvest interval
- Tops of crops sprayed with Coragen must not be used to feed livestock.
- It should be applied at a high water rate (300-800l/ha) using a boom sprayer. This helps the product penetrate into the crown of the crop where the larvae will be feeding.

Left: Treat crops when first signs of damage can be seen on plants

Thoroughly inspect heart leaves of multiple plants for signs of infestation:

- **feeding damage to petioles of emerging leaves**
- **black frass (faeces) on the heart leaves**
- **silk spun by the larvae**

Early treatment will limit further development of beet moth later in the season

BBRO Advice:

What is Coragen? Coragen is a selective diamide insecticide which controls caterpillars of lepidopteran pests and causes the caterpillars to stop feeding and eventually die. Coragen is believed to be generally harmless to slightly harmful to most beneficial insects*

When to use it? Use Coragen at the first signs of beet moth damage in your crops. Early treatment will limit the amount of damage which the crop experiences, prevent large numbers of moths completing their lifecycle and thus reduce pressure on the crop later in the year.

Avoid using a pyrethroid to control beet moth. This will certainly harm your beneficial predators which will be helping manage development of beet moth populations. Additionally, the risk from aphids and virus yellows is still severe and eradicating your beneficials will exacerbate the spread of aphids and increase the yield loss to virus yellows. Coragen is not expected to offer any control of aphids.

Should I use it? Trials data from 2025 found a yield uplift of around 10 adjusted tonnes of sugar beet in plots treated with Coragen vs the untreated control, far more than the economic cost of application. Early treatment is expected to result in even greater control and therefore better protection of yield.

Use the damage scorecard in the beet moth fact file to monitor the effectiveness of Coragen in your own crops.

What other control options are there? BBRO launched our beet moth research strategy this Spring. Trials work is now underway to understand more about beet moth's lifecycle and behaviour and investigate chemical and cultural methods, including the influence of sugar beet variety on the pest. Results and key findings will be published as soon as possible to help with future beet moth management. Heavy rainfall events are also understood to offer control as the moth thrives under warm, dry conditions when the sugar beet plants become stressed. Irrigation, if available, could be considered to deliver the same benefits.

Further Info:

Emergency Authorisation for Coragen
MothWatch – BBRO CropWatch Moth Monitoring (updated weekly)
Beet Moth Fact file

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*According to the IOBC Toxicology Classifications – See AHDB database: Insecticide effects on natural enemies for further information