



Weather impacted crops

The latest heatwave has severely impacted many crops with those already struggling from late or patchy emergence, or on light land, hardest hit. Sugar beet is usually quite resilient to drought and will normally recover overnight, however, with so little moisture available many crops are not recovering by dawn.

Management in current conditions:

1. Check crops early morning to assess canopy recovery
2. If canopy upright check for any insect or foliar damage or disease
3. Avoid applying any pesticides if your crop is droughted
4. Where canopy is showing signs of recovery and water is available, irrigation could be an option
5. It is unlikely to be cost effective applying irrigation to a severely droughted crop.

Foliar Diseases

No reports of fungal disease symptoms have been received at BBRO yet. Current conditions are conducive for powdery mildew (*Erysiphe betae*). Keep an eye out for first signs; small, white, powdery spots on older leaves which then merge to form a powdery coating across the leaf – see photo [CropWatch](#): We are observing any early signs of disease on a weekly basis and trapping cercospora and rust spores via our Spornado samplers.



Beet Your Best – Foliar Disease: Prepare and check out our advice overleaf.

BCN

Warm, wet conditions earlier in the season have favoured BCN.

If you suspect BCN, pull up a few roots and inspect for white, lemon-shaped cysts. There have been reports of high levels of BCN in some fields with BCN tolerant varieties. This can be caused by several factors (e.g. other hosts and length of rotation). If affected, speak to your British Sugar Agricultural Manager.

Beet Moth

The second generation of beet moths are emerging. Monitor carefully, see the [Beet Moth Factfile](#) for advice and check our latest maps from our [pheromone traps](#)

Avoid pyrethroid-based insecticides. Whilst they may have some efficacy in the control of beet moth they do not control our target aphids and will harm beneficial predatory insect populations.

Further Information:

Factfiles:

[Weed Control](#), [Weed beet & CONVISO Smart](#), [Beet Moth](#), [2026 Fungicide Options](#)

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

BeetCast June: Good pest management and a bit of rain brings positive relief

[Listen to this month's BeetCast](#)

With the crop motoring away the risk of further aphid invasions reduce. We look at what else can be found in the crop and how BBRO are working to find solutions.



Beet Your Best Target Four: Weed control

In fields where there is significant late or patchy crop emergence it may still be necessary to consider a further herbicide application to control late emerged weeds, particularly fat-hen. Product choice in these situations will depend on treatments already applied. Check product labels to ensure individual and total maximum doses of products and active ingredients are not exceeded.

With hot conditions continuing, do not apply treatments in the full heat of the day or when crops are under stress.

Bolters and weed beet: If in doubt – carry them out

Weed beet and bolters are showing in some fields. One weed beet or bolter per m² can reduce yield by 11% and produce 1500 seeds per plant so it is important they are controlled. Hand pulling is the most effective method. Before flowering, remove, break stem and leave in field. Remove plants from the field if flowering is completed. Ensure fields with CONVISO® Smart varieties are rogued twice.

TARGET FOUR: WEEDS



Do you need a pre-emergence herbicide?

Apply pre-emergence herbicides when conditions are optimal but avoid on high OM soils and in very dry years.



Have you got an understanding of the weed spectrum in your sugar beet crop(s)?

Tailor weed control relevant to your farm and weed pressure. Ensure regular applications where necessary to maximise control.



Do you have a plan for adapting your herbicide applications?

Avoid spraying under intense sunlight or when daily temperatures are high. Consider size of crop. Adjust adjuvants based on crop stress.



Beet Your Best Target Six: Foliar disease

It's a busy time on farm with cereal harvest well underway and earlier than usual. 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 Priors 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)

Events:

BBRO Advanced BASIS Sugar Beet Technology Course commencing in October. Limited places available. Contact: info@bbro.co.uk for further details.

External event:

Decision tree for nutrient management following cover crops - User Testing Online Workshops
ADAS are conducting a project with our partners NIAB and SRUC to produce a cover crop decision support tree, which will aid farmers and advisors to interpret the likely amount of nutrients available to the following cash crop and help inform nutrient management plans.

Tuesday 21st July 2026 – 09.30am - 10.45am [SIGN UP HERE](#)