



Weed Control - Post-emergence Herbicides

- Sugar beet and weeds are now emerging and first post-emergence herbicides should be planned, especially where difficult to control weeds are present such as polygonums e.g. knot-grass, pale persicaria, redshank
- Keep intervals between sprays tight (<7days) so weeds do not get away, especially if lower doses of herbicide have been used
- If crop emergence is delayed or split due to dry conditions, do not delay herbicide application - start when weeds are at cotyledon stage and select products approved for both pre- and post-emergence use if required
- Addition of a mineral oil can improve herbicide efficacy, if there are concerns of crop damage reduce oil rates
- CONVISO^R SMART[®] varieties – Timing for application of Conviso One is based on fat-hen growth stage, with the target size being 4 true leaves

Aphids:

- Aphid migration was forecast to start this week by Rothamsted Research
- Yellow water pan trapping began on the 9th of April and BBRO can confirm *Myzus persicae* have been caught at five CropWatch sites so far: Bungay, Castle Acre, Framlingham, Rougham & Yaxley
- BBRO's AphidWatch network is now live with nearly 50 sites being assessed for aphids twice per week. Check the maps on the BBRO website for latest results in your area – [AphidWatch](#)
- There are widespread reports of beneficial insects in crops, particularly ladybirds. They will help to predate any early aphids. However, in-crop monitoring of aphids must now begin. Check for aphids on at least twenty plants per field to determine if your crop has reached the spray threshold. (1 aphid per 4 plants)
- Further advice will follow in an aphid special bulletin next week

Hygiene:

We are still receiving reports of untreated spoil heaps and also energy/fodder beet still in ground. These will increase virus and disease risk. Where you have control ensure these are dealt with appropriately asap.

Further Information:

Factfiles: [Aphicides 2026](#), [Weed Control](#), [Pre-emergence Herbicides & Herbicide Active Ingredients](#)

BBRO [CropWatch](#)

Beet your Best – [Target 4: Weed Control](#)

BeetCast:

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

April's podcast discusses weed control and the proposed SPS agreement and its potential impact on crop protection products.



Nutrition Query - With increasing fertiliser costs, should I reduce my follow up nitrogen application rate?

Nitrogen response in sugar beet diminishes quickly when reaching the optimal nitrogen requirement. This optimum rate delivers good sized roots and high sugar content to maximise yield.

Understanding your crop's required rate is crucial and driven by several factors such as FYM application, tillage approach, soil type, soil health and cover crop use. The RB209 recommendation of 120kg/N ha is only applicable to soils with a low soil nitrogen supply of 1 or 2. Many fields will not require this when all nutritional inputs on a field are properly accounted for.

Applying nitrogen up to the optimal rate remains economically worthwhile at current beet and fertiliser prices. However, over-application will give no yield return and leads to reduced sugar content, checking your fertiliser calculations are correct is key to saving cost when fertiliser prices are high.

BBRO trials frequently show a nitrogen rate reduction of 10-20% results in negligible yield loss and is worth testing on your farm to check that your calculated optimal nitrogen rate is correct.

On Farm Progress:

Drilling is continuing at pace and over 95% of crops now sown. As soils continue to dry out seeds may need to be placed deeper to reach moisture. Do not exceed a depth of 5cm as this will reduce the viability and vigor of emerging plants.


Windblow or capping can be seen in some crops and may result in poor establishment and subsequent redrilling. Historic BBRO data recommends this is most justified if your established population is below 50,000 plants/ha


Plant Clinic:

To date, no reports of significant damage from soil pests or signs of blackleg have been reported to Plant Clinic.

If you have any concerns with establishment issues get in touch via email plantclinic@bbro.co.uk


TARGET THREE: NUTRITION






Have you tested your soil pH?

Sugar beet is sensitive to low pH. Ensure fields are robustly sampled and limed ahead beet drilling.





Do you have the most robust approach to calculating nutrient requirements?

Regularly test soil nutrient levels rather than solely relying on estimated/predicted values.



Have you accounted for all previous nutrient inputs?

Include contributions from organic manures and digestate when calculating application rates

Additionally, check your sprayer/spreader's calibration and apply in good conditions to maximise effectiveness of your fertiliser.



BBRO In-field - May 2026

19th May (9:00 or 11:00) - Rauceby, Lincolnshire
 20th May (9:00 or 11:00) - Morley, Norfolk
 21st May (9:00) - Linton, Cambs

Join us for:

- Seasonal crop update
- Pest pressures, monitoring and management
- Aphicide use, timing and stewardship
- Weed control performance
- Opportunity to network with BBRO and fellow growers

BASIS and NRoSO points available

Please click below to book a place

BOOK HERE