

# Foliar Disease
## Rust

### Introduction

Sugar beet rust is caused by the fungus *Uromyces betae*. Spores survive on leaf fragments, volunteer beet, fodder beet clamps, and wild sea beet populations. During spring and early summer, these spores are spread to new plants mainly by wind, but also by rain.

Symptoms are small, 1-2 mm red/orange pustules on the leaf surface, often surrounded by a light green/yellow halo. These may begin as individual spots or small clusters but will spread across the whole leaf if conditions remain favourable and no control measures are implemented.



**When:** July onwards

**Symptoms:** Small orange/brown pustules on leaf surface, later defoliation can occur after frost

**Risk:** Damp conditions and temperatures between 15-22°C. Low resistance variety

**Severity:** Up to 10-14% yield reductions

**Advice:** Treat as soon as disease appears, this is usually mid-August to mid-September but can be earlier



Disease development is optimal in cool and wet weather between 15 and 22°C and can be disrupted by periods of hot, dry weather.

Varietal tolerance to sugar beet rust can differ between varieties. Please refer to the Recommended List for disease scores and prioritise lowest scoring varieties when checking crops.

Rust is generally well controlled by fungicides and has shown no resistance to the available classes of fungicides including triazoles, strobilurins and SDHIs.

Fungicides should be applied when symptoms are first identified. Ensure that the gap between subsequent fungicide applications is no longer than 28 days.