



Drought Recovery

Many crops have now received a useful amount of rain and may be showing signs of canopy regrowth. There remains a lot of pale crops and focus should be on protecting the canopy with robust fungicide programmes as we go into the autumn.

Foliar Diseases

Disease levels still remain low, with powdery mildew being most prevalent. However, Cercospora is now also being found in crops with alerts having been issued across a large proportion of the growing region over the last 10 days as warm, wet and humid conditions caused our Cercospora Alert Service to trigger. Check crops for signs of disease and treat with a fungicide if required. We suggest using an SDHI containing fungicide (either Revystar XE or Caligula) to offer best control against cercospora. Click on image (Top right) to watch our latest video and monitor updates via [CropWatch](#).

Beet moth

Beet moth remains active in crops. Prioritise harvest of heavily infested crops, leave those with healthier, active canopies for later lifting as they will be able to continue to build yield into autumn. The Coragen EA expires on the 30th of September and must not be applied after this time. However, it is unlikely to give an economic return from now for beet moth control but BBRO trials are underway to confirm this. Bear in mind there is also a latest application time of 21 days before harvest as a condition on the EA. Hygiene and post-harvest clean-up is essential to manage beet moth ahead of 2027. Plough down any self-propelled cleaner spoil lines and ensure any canopy residue is incorporated soon after harvest to help limit over-winter survival of any beet moth. If spoil cannot be spread back onto fields after beet delivery, load the spoil and store it as far away from any beet fields as possible, ideally covered with soil or a sheet to prevent any moths from emerging next spring.



Beet moth larvae



Beet Armyworm caterpillars and leaf damage – see next page (plus beet moth evidence in crown)



Further Information:

Factfiles:

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

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

Refer to the checklist below when considering control of 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.




Beet Armyworm Caterpillars

This is a new threat to the beet crop this year, likely due to the extreme dry and heat during the summer. Moths have migrated over from mainland Europe and worked their way up through England after first being seen in the south-west. Caterpillars and feeding damage are appearing across the western side of the growing area. Inspect crops for signs of damage and report serious damage to your local BS agriculture manager and/or BBRO Plant Clinic. FERA have produced a guide to differences between Beet armyworm and Silver Y caterpillars which can be viewed [here](#).

As we transition into autumn with shorter day length and cooler temperatures activity of the caterpillars should significantly reduce. They will not tolerate freezing temperatures so should not over-winter. However, BBRO will monitor for this species next year to confirm this. Chemical controls are limited. Pyrethroids are the only option available to us for beet armyworm. If you are required to treat a crop, remember to follow rates, water volumes and harvest intervals of each product as stated on the label. BBRO is currently investigating the resistance status of specimens of this moth to pyrethroids as we're receiving mixed reports of their control. When growers have used Coragen for beet moth control via the current emergency authorisation (its use being specifically for the control of beet moth until 30th September), they have also gained incidental control of beet armyworm.

Example pyrethroid harvest intervals: Hallmark Zeon - 8 weeks, Decis Protech - 30 days, Cythrin Max - 14 days

Cruiser SB Stewardship

As drilling of crops for 2027 is underway, it is important to remember that fields sown with Cruiser SB treated sugar beet in 2024 are still under restrictions whereby you may not plant any flowering species for 32 months after sowing the sugar beet. Full details of the restrictions and species which are considered as flowering species can be found [here](#).

Weed Beet

A final reminder to remove bolters from fields if you have not already done so. This is essential in fields where Conviso Smart varieties have been sown. At this stage in the season bolters must be carried out of fields as they will have set viable seed.