



Urgent updates:

- Aphid migrations have begun. Pressure is high and widespread. Sites are breaching the threshold for treatment at an early growth stage across the growing area
- Prepare to spray and secure aphicides on-farm now. Inspect crops thoroughly (20+ plants per field) and regularly (2 or 3 times per week) to calculate if you are approaching or exceeding the spray threshold (5 aphids per 20 plants).
- Delaying T1 application where plants are very small may allow canopy expansion and increased aphicide uptake (Delay max. 48-96 hrs)
- Most fields are expected to require a three-spray aphicide programme this year – BBRO guidance is to follow a programme order of:
 - T1: Acetamiprid (InSyst)
 - T2: Flupyradifurone (Sivanto Prime)
 - T3: Flonicamid (Various products e.g. Teppeki)

Do not apply pyrethroid-based insecticides. They do not control our target aphids but will harm beneficial predatory insect populations
- Each aphicide active ingredient can only be applied once. Careful consideration of the order and timing of application is essential to maximise efficacy
- Industry is applying for an Emergency Authorisation for an additional application of InSyst at T4. It is essential that InSyst is used at T1 or T2. Should Emergency Authorisation be granted, back-to-back applications of InSyst at T3 and T4 will not be permitted.

Latest Advice:

The 2026 Virus Yellows (VY) pressure was forecast to be high this year by Rothamsted Research. Recent lack of rainfall, promoting aphid migration whilst slowing plant growth, has further increased the risk.

Aphid migration is now well underway. The first *Myzus persicae* was caught in the suction trap at Broom's Barn on April 16th. Winged aphids are being caught in BBRO's yellow water pan traps across our 20 CropWatch sites. Numerous fields are also reported to have breached the first spray threshold – Check the BBRO [AphidWatch network](#) to see results from your area

BBRO expects the majority of fields to require three aphicide treatments. Careful selection of the order of these sprays is required to maximise efficacy and limit spread of virus yellows.

You can only use each active ingredient once regardless of the product name and/or formulation. If you haven't already done so, we recommend getting at least your first aphicide product ordered and delivered on-farm to allow timely application(s).

There is no set sequence in which to use the available aphicides. However, BBRO guidance is to follow the programme order below for aphicide application this year*:

Spray Timing	Example Product <i>Active ingredient</i>	Justification
T1	InSyst <i>Acetamiprid</i>	Offers rapid aphid knockdown and will limit secondary spread of early colonising aphids (Historically, most likely to bring virus into a crop) Limited beneficial predatory insects in the crop at an early stage so minimises harm to them.
T2	Sivanto Prime <i>Flupyradifurone</i>	Offers moderate aphid control has a favourable profile in terms of beneficial insects, protecting their populations as they establish
T3	Teppeki <i>Fonicamid</i>	Most effective when treating larger plants to allow maximum up-take of product. Offers good aphid control, quickly ceasing feeding but takes a long time to kill aphids Favourable profile in terms of beneficial insects as it only targets aphids. Control Group 4 resistant aphid populations if they arise.

Application for Emergency Authorisation:

Due to the scale of threat this season, BBRO, NFU Sugar and British Sugar, are jointly seeking emergency authorisation for an additional application of InSyst from the Health and Safety Executive in 2026.

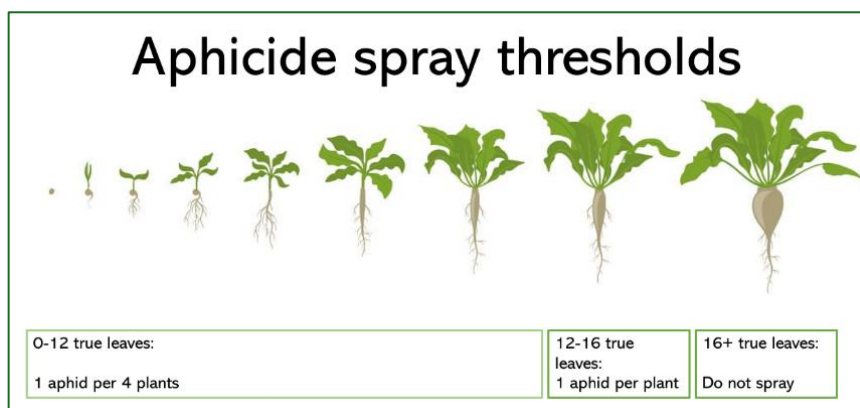
If an EA is granted, this additional InSyst treatment would only be able to be used as a fourth and final spray and only when all three fully approved products have been used. InSyst will not be permitted to be used twice in succession, so it is essential it is used at T1 or T2.

Rotating active ingredients to manage development of resistance is essential. However, to incorporate two possible applications of InSyst using two group 4 chemicals in succession is unavoidable. Using Fonicamid (Group 29) at T3 is vital to manage populations resistant to Group 4 insecticides (InSyst – Group 4A and Sivanto prime Group 4D) and limit their ability to persist in your crops.

If the EA is not granted, BBRO's advice for a three-spray programme and order of chemicals remains the same. If your crops only need a two-spray programme, T2 must be substituted with fonicamid to reduce resistance building to the Group 4 insecticides.

Aphicide guidance and usage notes:

It is important to note that Foliar spray treatments are unlikely to control primary VY infection of crops from migratory, winged aphids. Instead, they reduce spread from plant to plant by wingless aphids (The progeny of the winged



aphids). Therefore, follow the spray threshold (5 green wingless aphids per 20 plants up to 12 true leaves*) to maximise the longevity of each chemical and its opportunity to control the wingless aphids which result in initial points of infection spreading and turning into patches. (*Note the threshold shifts to 1 aphid per plant between 12-16 true leaves)

Regularly inspect crops and treat as soon as possible when the aphid threshold is breached. We advise checking crops at least twice per week as a minimum. When inspecting crops, check all leaves for the presence of aphids. Aphids will often tuck themselves into the heart leaves of plants and on the underside. You should inspect at least 20 plants per field to determine if you have reached threshold.

If plants are only small cotyledons at T1, we suggest delaying aphicide application for 48-96 hours even if the threshold is breached. This will allow the plants to grow, often doubling in canopy size in this time, and resulting in better over-all product uptake and therefore aphid control. Conversely, premature spraying will lead to minimal chemical uptake and a much shorter period of control.

Under no circumstances should you use a pyrethroid for aphid control (e.g. Hallmark Zeon). Our primary target aphid species (*Myzus persicae*) is widely resistant to pyrethroids, and the use of such products will lead to further build-up of aphids through eradication of beneficial predatory insects. If a pyrethroid is necessary to control other insects in your sugar beet, we recommend this is not applied until the sugar beet have passed the twelve true leaf stage when the threat from aphids is diminished.

BBRO continues to explore alternative solutions to manage Virus Yellows and aphids in the future in collaboration with industry partners.

Further Info:

[RIS - Rothamsted Insect Survey](#)

[Aphicide Factfile 2026](#)

[Aphid ID Guide](#)

VY Forecast 2026 – [East](#) and [North](#) – Issued Early March

[Advisory Bulletin 2 \(Revised forecast\)](#)

[Virus Yellows Pathway](#)

+ This does not substitute a recommendation from a BASIS qualified advisor nor does BBRO accept any liability for this guidance