



27th March 2025



IN BRIEF

- Drilling progressing well across the area, no issues have been raised.
- Aphids are still expected to be late into crop, however, the warmth may hasten their arrival.
- Additional insecticide now fully approved – Sivanto Prime, joins Tepeki /Afinto and Insyst to create a 3-spray programme if required.
- Evaluate need for pre-emergence herbicides according to seed bed conditions.
- Seed pelleting – colour no longer linked to seed treatments.
- Attention to detail required when drilling Conviso® Smart varieties.
- [BeetCast March: Covering off cover crops and planning early weed control](#)
- Weather watcher? [View the data collected by our new weather stations.](#)



ADVISORY

Aphid control

As a reminder, the Rothamsted Research forecast is predicting aphids to begin migrating in mid-May with the national VY forecast at 17% infection (in the absence of any control measures). Recent warm and dry weather may pull migration forward. BBRO's AphidWatch network will go live on the 1st May with twice weekly updates available via the BBRO website.

We are pleased to announce that Bayer have approval of a new insecticide product for aphid control – Sivanto Prime, providing us with a third active ingredient. The options are:

- acetamiprid (Insyst). Mode of action: through contact and ingestion. Apply up to 16 true leaves.
- flonicamid (either Teppeki or Afinto – but not both). Mode of action: affects digestive system – Apply between 2 and 16 true leaves
- flupyradifurone (Sivanto Prime). Mode of action: through contact, affects central nervous system. Sivanto Prime must be applied to the crop no later than the 9 true-leaf stage.

Thresholds for use remain 1 aphid per four plants up to 12 true leaves. 1 aphid per plant 12-16 true leaves.

Avoid using pyrethroids, such as Hallmark, where at all possible, especially in the early phases of crop growth. Not only are aphids highly resistant to pyrethroids (95%+), but their

use will also negatively impact on the build of beneficials such as lacewing and ladybird larvae.

Seed pellet colours

We have received a number of queries relating to seed pellet colours.

- These are no longer linked to pellet treatments.
- The colour is now linked to the breeder/pelletier
- Germain's standard colour is Green

Weed control

Sugar beet offers very little competition to weeds in its initial establishment phase, with the first 8 weeks after drilling being the most critical.

Pre-emergence herbicides

Soil conditions at present are variable across the beet growing region with some areas having received no rainfall and others 30mm plus. Pre-emergence herbicides will obviously work better where there is soil moisture and in the last two seasons, pre-emergence applications have given good results due to the amount of moisture present. Using a pre-emergence spray should also provide more flexibility with post-emergence herbicide timings which is useful when sprayer capacity is limited.

Table 1. Herbicide actives approved for use pre-emergence of the sugar beet crop			
Active (s)	Example products	MOA*	Comments
clomazone	Mohawk CS	13	Pre-emergence only. Do not use on sands or very light soils.
ethofumesate	Efeckt, Ethosat 500	15	Main active for black-grass control at pre-emergence timing. The maximum total dose must not exceed 1.0 kg of ethofumesate per hectare in any three-year period. All 'straight' products contain 500 g a.i./L but individual product labels vary regarding individual doses and timings.
metamitron	Bettix Flo, Goltix 70SC	5	Useful partner for ethofumesate at pre-emergence timing, some effect on black-grass but will widen the spectrum of broad-leaved weeds controlled, e.g., fat-hen.
ethofumesate + metamitron	Oblix MT, Torero, Volcano	15 5	Alternative option to applying these two actives as straights.
metamitron + quinmerac	Goltix Titan	5 4	Quinmerac is only available in a formulated mix with metamitron for use at the pre-emergence timing. Useful where resistant poppies, and umbelliferous weeds are expected e.g. fool's parsley.
*Mode of Action			

Table 1 lists all of the actives that are currently available for pre-emergence use within Great Britain.

It is useful to retain some ethofumesate for post-emergence use, so generally rates applied before crop emergence are at the 1.0 L/ha rate which supplies 500 g a.i./ha, half of the amount that is permitted in total. Remember the restriction is on the active and not individual products with respect to ethofumesate.

In dry conditions metamiltron is moderately persistent ($DT_{50}^{(typical)}$ 30 days) it is a systemic active that is absorbed mainly by the roots and translocated. If you have drilled beet into a completely dry seed bed then it is worth considering delaying herbicide applications until the early post emergence timing when hopefully some rain will have occurred. At the pre-emergence timing metamiltron is usually applied at 1.0 l/ha to supply 700 g a.i./ha. It can be increased if high levels of knot grass, fat-hen, mayweeds and annual nettle etc are expected.

Tank mixing pre-emergence herbicides with glyphosate or liquid fertilisers

It is possible to obtain backing for tank mixing pre-emergence herbicides but check carefully as glyphosate formulations vary in their ability to mix as do liquid fertilisers. Some mixes will result in sedimentation occurring and could lead to nozzle blockages in particular liquid fertilisers containing metamiltron and sulphur. Where metamiltron is included in mixes that contain nitrogen and sulphur then pre-mixing with water first is often advised. Straight nitrogen formulations tend to mix better than those containing sulphur, but agitation is still essential.

Some glyphosate mixes will stipulate a minimum water volume requirement e.g., 200 l/ha water and there is a variation in tank mix ability between formulations. It is not necessarily the 'active loading' that causes the tank mixability issues but the surfactants that are included in the formulation. **It is essential to check** all planned tank mixes with manufacturers, e.g. Bayer, Yara and Omex they provide good guidance on what will and won't mix.

Bayer Conviso message:

- Do not mix Conviso®Smart and conventional varieties in the drill; if sowing a Conviso®Smart variety plan to drill whole fields
- Ensure seed drills are completely clear of conventional seed before planting a ®Smart variety
- All Conviso®Smart seed is uniquely identified as having a purple coloured inner to the pellet
- Do not drill areas of fields that cannot be lifted by a harvester; for stewardship of the technology this creates a risk of groundkeepers in the following crop
- Return any surplus Conviso®Smart seed from the drill to the original box for storage
- Keep a record and mark Conviso®Smart drilled fields; only apply Convis One herbicide to fields drilled with a Conviso®Smart variety; beware, conventional varieties treated with Conviso® One herbicide will be destroyed

Cover crop survey

Work is ongoing to better understand nutrient release from cover crops. BBRO are supporting AHDB, Anglian Water, Wessex Water and Southern Water who have commissioned a report on current understanding and research in this area. This report is being compiled by ADAS and includes a survey which we would encourage you to complete to feed into a future project looking to develop Cover crop decision support tool (DST).

The survey takes around 10 minutes to complete and is open until 31 March. [Cover Crops Survey](#)



EVENTS

Missed our Growers BeetChat event? Catch up here: <https://youtu.be/09Dm0EKuznM>

BeetTech25 videos available for download.

[Project Goliath and CropWatch \(Delivering the Detail\) – Dr Alistair Wright](#)

[Revisiting Rhizomania – Dr Suzannah Harder](#)

[Knowing Nitrogen – Dr Georgina Barratt](#)



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