



Management of Heat/Drought impacted crops:

1. Check crops early morning to assess canopy wilting/recovery
2. If canopy upright check for any insect or foliar disease(s)
3. Avoid applying bio-stimulants, nutrients or fungicides if your crop is severely droughted
4. Only spray if the central canopy is upright and actively growing
5. Where canopy is showing signs of recovery and water is available, irrigation could be an option to support the crop. This is only likely to be economically justified on actively growing crops vs severely droughted fields.

Foliar Diseases

Disease levels are currently low, with powdery mildew being most prevalent. Keep an eye out for first signs; small, white, powdery spots on older leaves which then merge to form a powdery coating across the leaf.

Our spornado network has detected Cercospora spores in the air across most of the growing region - see [CropWatch](#). However, Cercospora development is being prevented by the ongoing dry weather but it could rapidly damage canopies if/when we receive heavy rainfall.

BCN

Sugar beet may be showing signs of infestations of beet cyst nematode (premature wilting and bearded/busy root systems). Levels of infection appear severe this year due to warm and damp conditions in spring, followed by the dry summer. If you suspect an infection, pull up some plants and look for the characteristic lemon-shaped cysts on lateral roots. Make a note of infested fields and ensure you grow BCN tolerant varieties in these fields in the future.

Remember, cysts may be visible on tolerant varieties: (e.g. Daphna, Harryetta KWS, Katjana KWS, Button, Hoopoe & Smart Nelda KWS) but there will be fewer cysts and less damage than on a susceptible variety. Extend your rotation (allowing natural population decline) and remove BCN conducive cover crops (e.g. Stubble turnips or non-resistant mustards/radishes) if you suspect a BCN infestation. See BCN & Cover Crop Fact files and if you have concerns about BCN on tolerant sugar beet contact BBRO's Plant Clinic.

Beet moth

Dry weather continues to favour beet moth, with populations increasing in these conditions. Treatment is limited whilst the crop is droughted. Only apply an insecticide for beet moth (e.g. Coragen) when the crop is active and remains turgid throughout the day. High water rates are essential to ensure the product penetrates into the crowns.

Further Information:

Factfiles:

[Weed beet & CONVISO Smart](#), [Beet Moth, 2026](#)
[Fungicide Options](#), [Cover Crops](#).

BBRO [CropWatch](#) – Weather Stations, Beet Moth & Disease Mapping

BeetCast July: BBRO hosted the International Institute of Sugar Beet Research (IIRB) 80th Congress
[Listen to this month's BeetCast](#)

What are the global issues that threaten the crop and what solutions are being researched and delivered in the world of sugar beet.



Beet Your Best Target Six: Foliar disease

It's a busy time on farm with cereal harvest well underway and earlier than usual. Don't forget to think about foliar diseases in your sugar beet. See [2026 Fungicide Options Factfile](#) and watch the [Managing Foliar Disease](#) video.

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



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.

Events:

Join us at our forthcoming field events in August.

Click here for a sneak preview of varietal discussions: [2027 Varieties](#)

BBRO In-field - August 2026

25th August (9:00 or 11:00) - Rauceby, Lincolnshire
 26th August (9:00 or 11:00) - Morley, Norfolk
 27th August (9:00 or 11:00) - Linton, Cambs

Join us for:

- Foliar disease control
- Cover crops
- Variety choice
- Harvest info and autumn cultivations
- Weed control performance 2026
- Opportunity to network with BBRO, breeders and fellow growers

BASIS and NRoSO points available

[BOOK HERE](#)