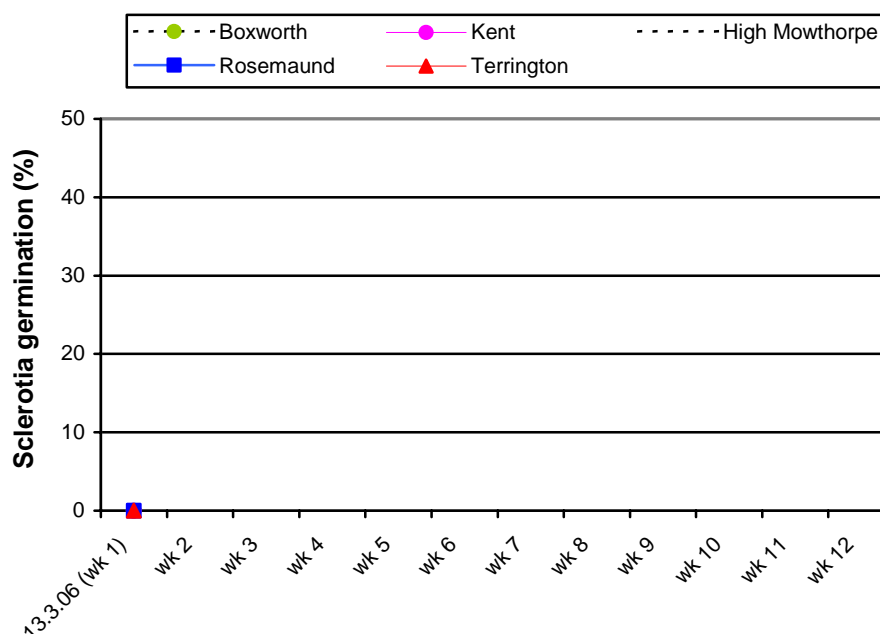


# BASF/ADAS Sclerotinia Monitoring

Update 17<sup>th</sup> March 2006

## First Sclerotinia monitoring report for 2006

**Continued cold weather is holding back crops.  
Growers should start preparing for growth regulation treatments**



Winter oilseed rape crops are starting to produce some new leaf growth and crops are close to the early stem extension stage. Some internodes are present where stem elongation took place in the autumn, occasional crops have plants that flowered in late autumn.

Many crops have large and vigorous plants this season and these will benefit from a plant growth treatment at mid stem extension. Pigeons and rabbits are causing severe damage in some crops and action should be taken to prevent this continuing. **This is the critical stage for decisions on plant growth regulator use.**

### Benefits of canopy manipulation

- More even canopy
- Shorter flowering period
- Less pod shatter
- Easier and faster harvesting

### Which crops will benefit?

- Many oilseed rape crops are too thick and very forward
- Crops which are actively growing with a Green Area Index (GAI) of greater than 2 in April

### Which product?

- Caramba and Sunorg Pro are the most persistent plant growth regulators in winter oilseed rape, consistently out-performing competitors. With greater flexibility in treatment timing, an application of Caramba or Sunorg Pro offers the potential for significant yield benefits.

### BASF plc Agricultural Products Division

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## ACTIONS

It is still too early to apply fungicides for Sclerotinia. No sclerotia germination has started yet as soil temperatures are low. Soils are moist on the surface and germination should start as soon as soil temperatures rise to 10°C or more.

**Plant growth regulators such as Caramba and Sunorg Pro are required on the more vigorous crops at the mid-stem extension stage, likely to be in 2-3 weeks time.** PGR treatment should not be used on thin or stressed crops. It is estimated that >90% of crops will benefit from a plant growth regulatory treatment this season.

Most crops are at a similar growth stage across the country. Crops are generally at the flower buds enclosed by leaves stage (GS 3,1). Crop heights of 20cm are not uncommon.

Light leaf spot is becoming more evident, though it is generally present at low levels. A fungicide spray is advised if 25% or more plants are affected. It is now rather late for Phoma control, but it may still be worthwhile if plants are small and Phoma leaf spot is easy to find.

Visit the 'Optimising Canopy Management' website at [www.totaloilseedcare.co.uk](http://www.totaloilseedcare.co.uk)

To complement this new web site, BASF and ADAS have also produced a new booklet, 'Optimising Canopy Management', which outlines the key issues of canopy management, shows colour photographs of different crops with different GAI at different times of year and advises on the best course of action. Copies can be obtained from BASF on 0161 488 5783.

**If you have any queries or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact your local Agronomy Manager or the BASF Technical Services Hotline 0845 602 2553.**

Caramba and Sunorg Pro registered trademarks of BASF.  
Caramba and Sunorg Pro contain metconazole.

**ALWAYS READ THE LABEL. USE PESTICIDES SAFELY.**

[www.agriCentre.co.uk](http://www.agriCentre.co.uk)