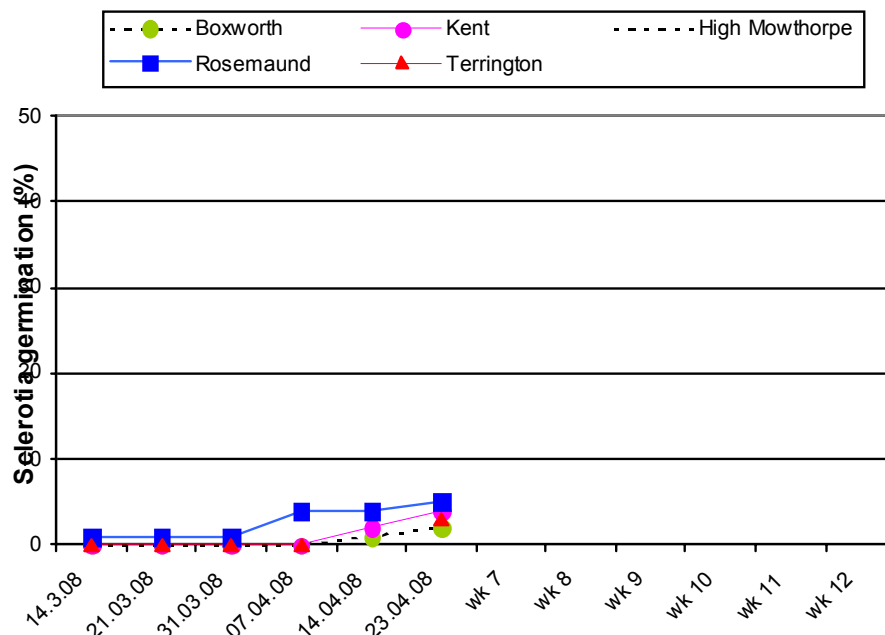


BASF/ADAS Sclerotinia Monitoring

Update 23 April 2008



Sclerotinia germination increasing. Petal tests show some high activity. Spraying of flowering crops for Sclerotinia is underway



There has been limited crop development during the last week and growth stages are still mainly between the yellow bud and early flowering stages. Some forward crops are at the mid-flowering stage with a few small pods. Flowering is more advanced in some varieties such as Excalibur. Severe pigeon damage is now very conspicuous and contributing the large variation within crops. Some sclerotinia fungicides have been applied at early flowering and many crops are likely to require treatment during the next 10 days.

Sclerotinia germination has started this week at ADAS Terrington. Four out of the 5 depots are now showing germination, which leaves only the traditionally late site at High Mowthorpe on the Yorkshire Wolds with no activity in the depot. At Boxworth, Cambs, Rosemaund, near Hereford and the Kent site on Romney Marsh, there are low numbers of apothecia present this week. Apothecia have also been found in winter wheat after winter oilseed rape with sclerotinia in 2007 in The Thames valley area. It is now a good time to look for apothecia in winter cereal crops where you know there have been sclerotinia problems in previous years. Sclerotinia spores are likely to be able to spread from infested cereal fields to nearby oilseed rape crops. Finding apothecia nearby would justify fungicide treatment on oilseed rape.

The first petal tests are now starting to be completed. They indicate that sclerotinia ascospores have been produced for at least three weeks and some crops are already risk despite low germination in depots. Crops in the Boxworth, Hereford and Romney Marsh areas have been tested for the first time during 2-15 April as first plants started to flower. Sclerotinia has been found at all the sites tested so far, mainly at low levels of 2.5-20% petals affected. However, at high risk sites in the Hereford area, interim results suggest higher levels of sclerotinia (35-65% petals affected) are present and fungicide treatment is now required. In other areas, it is likely that some crops may have 25% or more petals affected and justify treatment. At some sites, in previous years, 25% petal infection has resulted significant sclerotinia stem infection in crops and this is suggested as a guiding threshold. The sclerotinia risk is likely to keep increasing soil temperatures rise. Crops are early to mid-flowering should be treated where there is considered to be a sclerotinia risk. Fungicides give about 3 weeks protection and a second fungicide treatment may justified this season at high risk sites because of high crop value.

Rain during 23-24 April may be able to provide suitable conditions for some early leaf and stem infection by sclerotinia. If this occurs, some stem symptoms should be evident by mid-May.

Light leaf spot is present on the upper leaves and occasionally on stems, particularly in the north and west. It will now be difficult to control but protection of pods against light leaf spot should be part of decision making on products at PGR and sclerotinia timings.

ACTION

Late PGR treatments should give early protection against sclerotinia, allowing the main sclerotinia treatment to be applied about 3 weeks later and close to mid-flowering. At high risk sites where no PGR is used, sclerotinia treatment is advised prior to forecast rain at early to mid-flowering. Where light leaf spot is established, select products or mixtures that will give control at PGR or sclerotinia control timings. Sprays should be applied in at least 200 litres of water per ha

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.

ALWAYS READ THE LABEL. USE PESTICIDES SAFELY

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