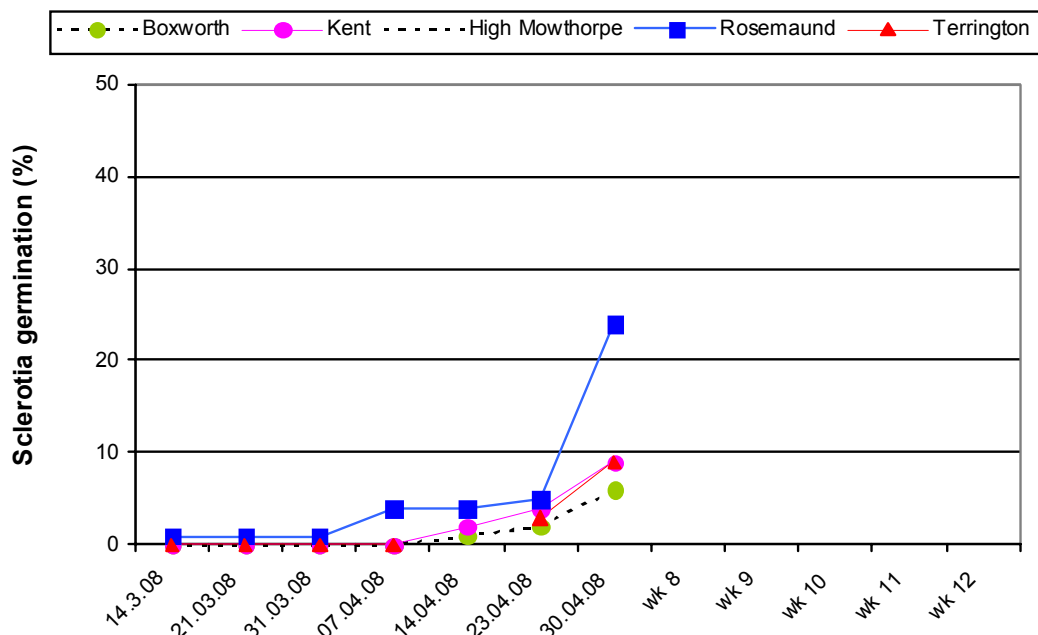


BASF/ADAS Sclerotinia Monitoring

Update 30 April 2008



Sclerotinia germination increasing, particularly in the west. Petal tests show some high activity and increasing risk.



After warm dry weather at the end of last week, most crops are flowering strongly and moving from early to mid-flowering. Some late crops and pigeon damaged areas are still green and between the yellow bud and early flowering stages. Forward crops are beyond the mid-flowering stage with pods developing. Progress was made with sclerotinia fungicide applications last week, but rain is hampering spraying this week. Fortunately some of this rain has been heavy so it may have washed petals off the foliage and reduced the sclerotinia risk. There is some urgency to protect untreated crops that are flowering against sclerotinia.

Sclerotinia germination has increased quite dramatically from 5% to 24% at ADAS Rosemaund this week. There was 4-6% new germination at Boxworth, Cambs, the Kent site on Romney Marsh and at ADAS Terrington. There was more rain in the Rosemaund area last week so soils have been moist at the surface, but germination could now increase quickly in other regions after more widespread rain this week. Only the depot at High Mowthorpe on the Yorkshire Wolds still has no germination. 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.

Petal tests have been carried out at a number of sites since early April to establish levels of sclerotinia inoculum in individual crops. They indicate that sclerotinia ascospores have been produced for at least three weeks and some crops are already at high risk despite low germination in depots. Crops tested for the first time during 2-15 April as first plants started to flower showed 2.5 – 65% petals affected. Interim results for the period 16-25 April suggest levels of sclerotinia are now slightly higher (5-75% petals affected). Sites with a history of sclerotinia are giving the higher sclerotinia levels in the petal tests. Inoculum appears to be higher in the west, but some crops in all regions may have 25% or more petals affected and justify treatment. In previous years, 25% petal infection has resulted significant sclerotinia stem infection in some crops and this is suggested as a guiding threshold. The sclerotinia risk is likely to keep increasing after recent rain and as 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 be justified this season at high risk sites because of high crop value.

Rain during 23-24 April may have provided 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 was 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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