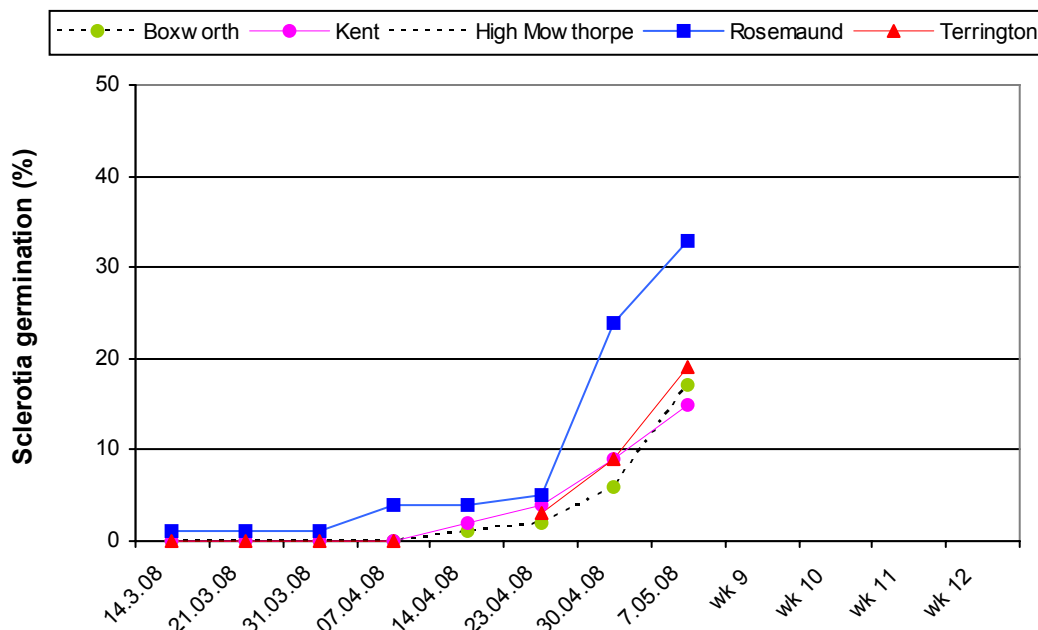


# BASF/ADAS Sclerotinia Monitoring

Update 7.May 2008

**BASF**  
The Chemical Company

Sclerotinia germination still increasing. Petal tests show some high activity and some petal stick has occurred



Most crops are flowering strongly and moving from mid to late-flowering and setting pods. Forward crops have almost finished flowering on the main raceme. Some late crops and pigeon damaged areas are still green and between the yellow bud and early flowering stages. Some petal sticking has been reported, though generally in low numbers as heavy rain tended to wash petals off the foliage and hence reduce the sclerotinia risk. As the sclerotinia risk is still increasing, a second fungicide treatment may be worthwhile to maintain protection at high risk sites until the end of flowering.

Sclerotinia germination has increased at all sites in southern, eastern and western England as soils have been moist. The highest germination is at ADAS Rosemaund where there has now been 33% germination, an increase of 9% since last week. There was 11% new germination at Boxworth, Cambs, 6% at the Kent site on Romney Marsh and 10% at ADAS Terrington, giving rather similar total germination of 15-19% at sites in the east and south. Only the depot at High Mowthorpe on the Yorkshire Wolds still has no germination. The new apothecia are still expanding and will be producing spores in increasing numbers. Several dry days are likely to favour dispersal of air-borne sclerotinia spores so the risks of infection are expected to increase if the weather becomes showery and leads to petal sticking during the next week.

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 four weeks and some crops are already at high risk despite moderate 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 (5-85% petals affected). Further tests were done last week, but it is too early to quantify their sclerotinia incidence. 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

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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 and 29-30 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. Phoma stem lesions and stem cankers are being found in the east.

#### **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 sclerotinia treatment was applied at early to mid-flowering, a second treatment should be considered about 3 weeks later to maintain protection whilst the crop is 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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