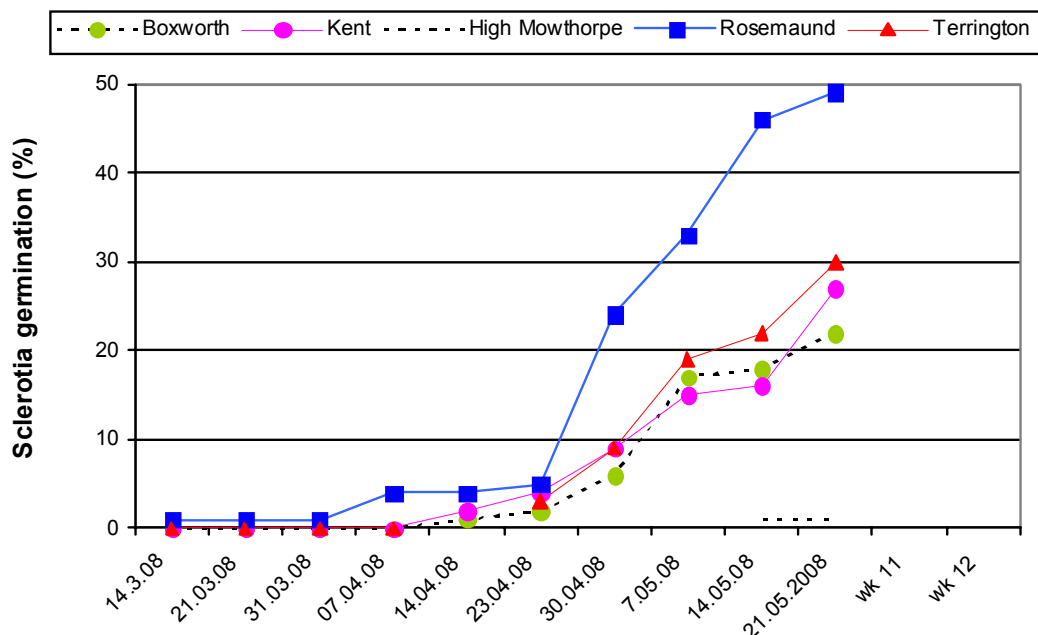


BASF/ADAS Sclerotinia Monitoring

Update 21 May 2008

BASF
The Chemical Company

Sclerotinia germination continues. Petal tests show continuing high activity. First stem symptoms



Most crops are close to the end of flowering and have seeds expanding in the pods. Forward crops have finished flowering. Late crops and pigeon damaged areas are likely to continue flowering for time as more branches are produced. Some petal sticking has been reported and leaf lesions are becoming more evident particularly in the west. Sclerotinia and botrytis are likely to be causing these lesions. The first sclerotinia stem lesions are appearing in the Hereford area, indicating some infection occurred in April (possible infection during 23-24 April and 29-30 April). More rain is forecast for late May Bank Holiday weekend and this may provide the last conditions for petal sticking and infection in later flowering crops. As the sclerotinia risk is still present, a second fungicide treatment may be worthwhile to maintain protection at high risk sites until the end of flowering. In south, where alternaria continues to cause problems in a few crops each year, final decisions are required to protect developing pods.

Sclerotinia germination has increased slightly at all sites in southern, eastern and western England and soils have remained moist at the surface. The highest germination is at ADAS Rosemaund where there has now been 49% germination, an increase of 3% since last week. There was 4% new germination at Boxworth, Cambs, 11% at the Kent site on Romney Marsh and 8% at ADAS Terrington, giving rather similar total germination of 22-30% at sites in the east and south. The depot at High Mowthorpe on the Yorkshire Wolds had its first germination (1%) last week, but no further germination took place in drying conditions this 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 six 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. Results for the period 16-25 April suggest levels of sclerotinia are now slightly higher (5-85% petals affected). Further tests done in May have shown some high risk sites have very high sclerotinia inoculum, with 22-82% petals affected. Inoculum levels have increased since early flowering at some sites, but other sites are showing more stable inoculum levels. Sites with a history of sclerotinia are giving the higher sclerotinia levels in the petal tests. Inoculum appears to be higher in

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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 continue if there is more rain. 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.

Light leaf spot is becoming more obvious stems. Phoma stem lesions and stem cankers are being found in the east.

ACTION

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. In the south and in any lodged crops, alternaria control decisions should now be made. Where light leaf spot is established, select products or mixtures that will give control at 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.

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