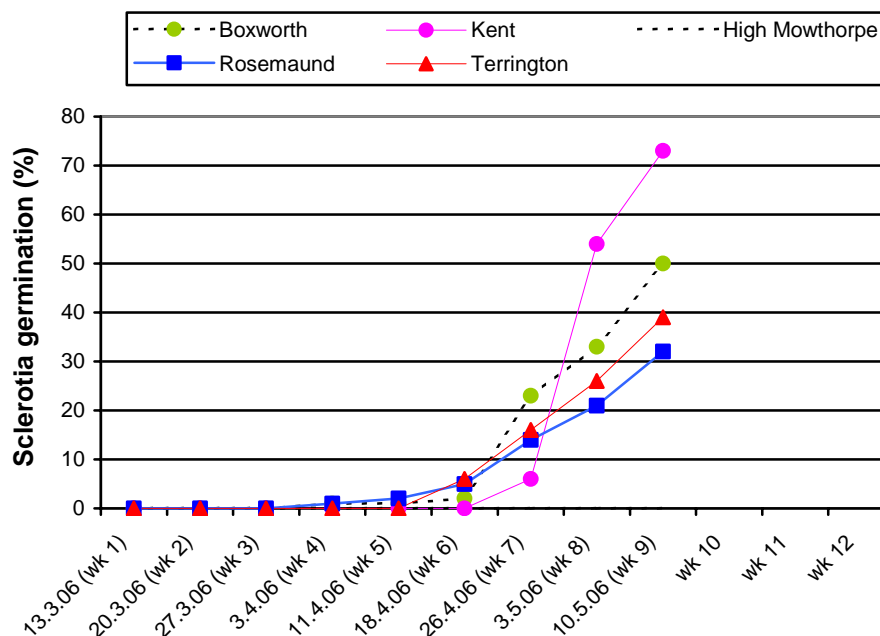


# BASF/ADAS Sclerotinia Monitoring

Update 12<sup>th</sup> May 2006

**HIGH levels of sclerotia germination now in south.  
Final decisions on fungicides now need to be made.**



Flowering has progressed rapidly over the last week and most crops are at full flowering with first pods forming. Some crops in the north are just starting to flower. Average crops are 120-140 cm tall. Petals are now sticking to the foliage, but this is variable between crops. Heavy rain has washed some of the petals off the leaves, but has created humid conditions within the crop canopy, which will promote disease development. There are a few signs of lodging after the heavy rain and root lodging could occur in very wet soils if there is windy weather. Sprays for Sclerotinia control were applied last week to crops in the south and central regions. **Where decisions have not been made, action is now urgently required.**

Sclerotinia activity has continued to increase during the last week, notably in Kent where 73% germination has been recorded (+19%). There is still no germination at High Mowthorpe on the Yorkshire Wolds. The overall Sclerotinia risk is increasing from low to moderate, which is coinciding with the flowering period. High risk farms are advised to apply a fungicide at early to mid-flowering. Many areas have had over 25mm of rain during the last week and Sclerotinia activity should increase further during May.

Some Sclerotinia stem rotting has been found already in the south east and east, with plant to plant spread via old leaves. Botrytis has increased in the recent humid weather particularly where crops have been scorched by nitrogen fertilisers. There has been some collapse of scorched leaves and occasionally development of stem lesions. Alternaria remains at low levels. Light leaf spot is becoming more evident notably where fungicides have not been used since the autumn.

## ACTIONS

As significant sclerotia germination is underway, there is a risk of Sclerotinia from early flowering in high risk situations. **The risk is expected to keep increasing as more fruiting bodies mature and produce air-borne spores. The optimum timing of applications is from early flowering to mid-flowering and treatments should be applied from early May onwards in flowering crops, prioritising the high risk sites.** As weather conditions often limit opportunities for spraying, it is advisable to be slightly early with applications as treatments are almost entirely protectant.

Crops that are likely to lodge are prone to problems with stem and pod diseases and should receive a broad spectrum fungicide treatment at early to mid-flowering.

Filan provides the following benefits:-

- **Excellent control of all three flowering diseases - Sclerotinia, Alternaria and Botrytis.**
- Protection over a prolonged period allows flexible timing from late yellow bud/early flower onwards.
- Yield benefit even in the absence of disease – Filan increases chlorophyll in the pods, resulting in better seed-fill and increased thousand seed weight.
- Reduction in pre-harvest losses – Filan reduces premature senescence and pod shatter.
- Bee-safe when mixed with pyrethroids\* at flowering. However, consideration should be given to informing bee keepers when you intend spraying crops in flower. Seed weevil activity will increase with the recent rise in temperature. (\* EC cypermethrin is physically incompatible).

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

**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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