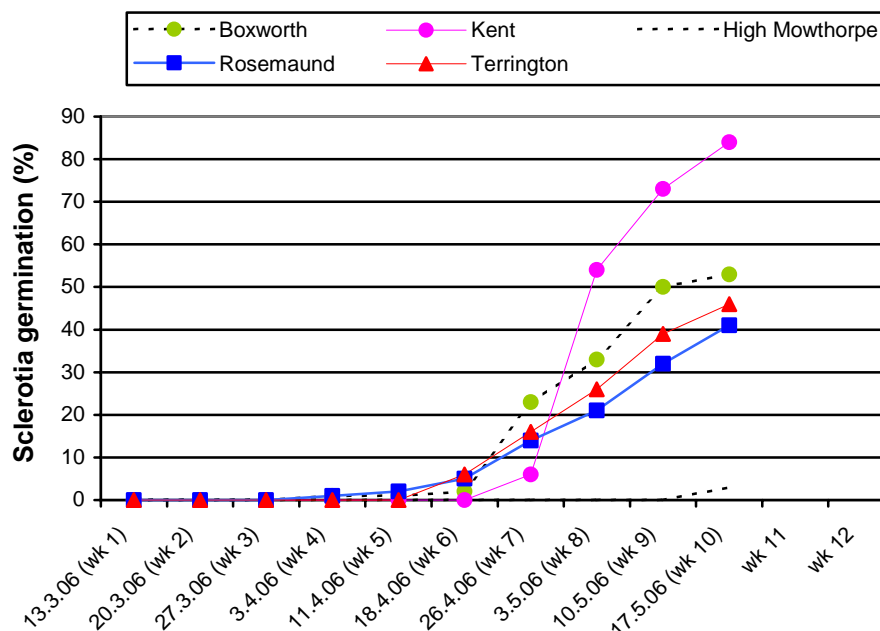


BASF/ADAS Sclerotinia Monitoring

Update 19th May 2006

HIGH levels of sclerotia germination in the south. First germination at High Mowthorpe. Final decisions on fungicides need to be made now.



Many crops are now at the full to late flowering stage and will complete pod formation soon. Some crops in the north are at mid-flowering. Average crops are 160 cm tall, tall crops are greater than 180 cm. Petals are sticking to the foliage, but this is very variable between crops. Botrytis leaf spots and blotches have developed around some of the older stuck petals. Further petal sticking could occur at the late flowering stage and lead to more Botrytis and Sclerotinia infection. There is some lodging in tall crops that were vigorous in the autumn and in September sown crops with high populations. More lodging is expected if there is wet and windy weather. **Sprays for Sclerotinia should now have been applied and final decisions are required on untreated crops where lodging is likely to occur.**

Sclerotinia activity has continued to increase during the last week, notably in Kent where 84% germination has been recorded (+11%). There has been the first germination at High Mowthorpe on the Yorkshire Wolds. The overall Sclerotinia risk has increased from low to moderate and high risk farms are advised to use fungicides at early to mid-flowering. Later broad spectrum fungicides such as Compass, will still be worthwhile particularly if there is a high risk of lodging and pod diseases.

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 relatively low levels. Light leaf spot is still very active on leaves and has spread to stems, most 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.

Where crops are beyond the timing for Filan, Compass provides cost-effective protection against the spread of disease through the canopy.

Crops that are likely to lodge are prone to problems with stem and pod diseases and should receive a broad spectrum fungicide treatment to protect the pods through to harvest.

Benefits of Compass 1.5–2.0 l/ha from mid through to late flower

- **Broad spectrum disease control – Alternaria, Botrytis, late Light leaf spot and low levels of Sclerotinia.**
- Keeps canopy green for yield building
- Flexible timing (latest timing 3 weeks before harvest)
- Target 20% pod set onwards and keep to 2.0 l/ha where Alternaria is the key target.
- Compatible with a range of pyrethroids including Contest (note: applications should adhere to good agricultural practice)

The lower rate is a useful ‘top-up’ where a late stem extension spray has already been used. The stem extension spray will have reduced disease inoculum, but it is important to protect the pods against late infection.

Visit the ‘Optimising Canopy Management’ website at www.totaloilseedcare.co.uk or through the link on 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.

Filan, Compass and Contest are registered trademarks of BASF.
Filan contains boscalid.
Compass contains iprodione and thiophanate-methyl.
Contest contains alpha-cypermethrin.

ALWAYS READ THE LABEL. USE PESTICIDES SAFELY.

www.agriCentre.co.uk