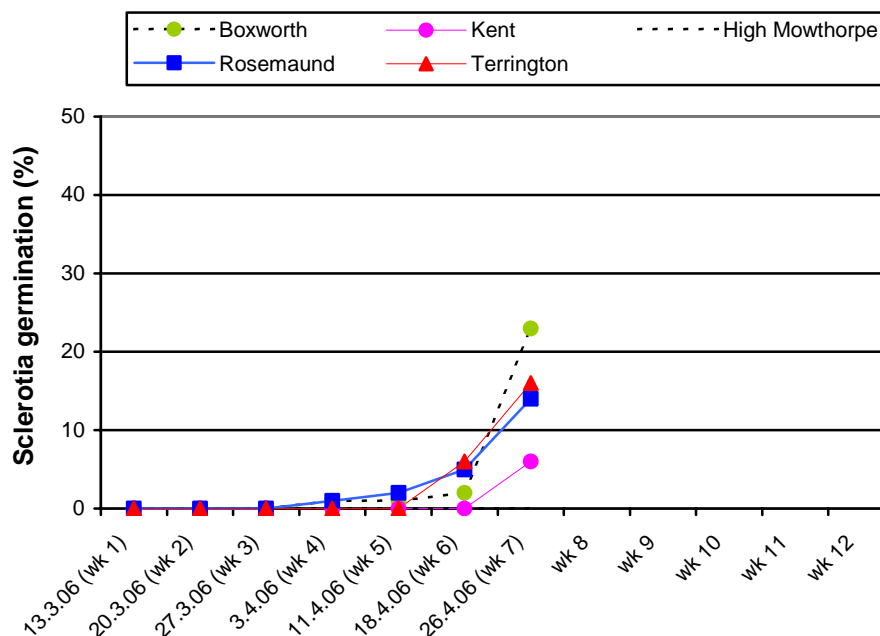


BASF/ADAS Sclerotinia Monitoring

Update 28th April 2006

**Significant increase in sclerotia germination over the last week.
Apply fungicides from next week onwards.**



With the rise in temperatures, crop growth has been rapid and many crops are at flowering. Plants have put on 20-30cm of new growth in the last week, so it is not unusual to find some stem splitting.

Sclerotinia activity has increased significantly in the last week, due to the return to seasonal temperatures and the forecast rain showers will result in further increases. Those sclerotia already germinated will take a few days to produce spores so infection risk will be higher next week.

Some Sclerotinia stem rotting has been found already in the south east and east with plant to plant spread via old leaves. Some affected plants are already wilting and showing immature white sclerotia on the outside of the plant. Previously applied plant growth regulators such as Caramba and Sunorg Pro may help control this early infection.

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 is currently at low levels but will be a threat to crops in the south and south-west later in the season. Some Light Leaf Spot is being found, particularly in the north.

ACTIONS

The optimum timing for high risk situations is early to mid flower. As sclerotia germination is well underway, **treatments should be applied from early May onwards in flowering crops, prioritising the high risk sites.** If the weather is expected to cause interruption to spraying it is better to spray slightly early than too late – all Sclerotinia products are protectants.

BASF plc Agricultural Products Division

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Filan provides the following benefits:-

- Top disease control - the standard for Sclerotinia control, label approval for Alternaria and excellent activity against Botrytis. Filan also has activity on Light Leaf Spot.
- 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).

Remember, ineffective Sclerotinia control can be costly, >£70/ha. Filan outperforms all competitors offering on average an additional 0.2t/ha yield in the presence of disease and 0.3t/ha in the absence.

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.

Caramba, Sunorg Pro and Filan are registered trademarks of BASF.
Caramba and Sunorg Pro contain metconazole.
Filan contains boscalid.

ALWAYS READ THE LABEL. USE PESTICIDES SAFELY.

www.agriCentre.co.uk