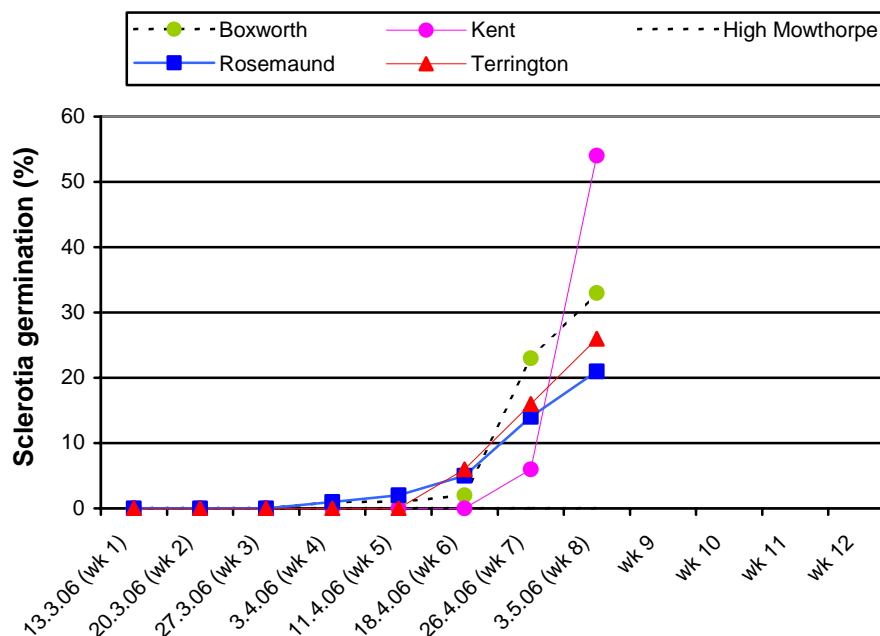


# BASF/ADAS Sclerotinia Monitoring

Update 5<sup>th</sup> May 2006

**Moderate to high levels of sclerotia germination now in south.  
Key fungicide timing rapidly approaching.**



Crops have developed rapidly over the last week and most crops are at early flowering. Forward crops are at mid-flowering, but some crops are still at the green bud stage in the north. Average crops are 90-140 cm tall. Some crops have received a spray for Sclerotinia control at early flowering

Sclerotinia activity has increased significantly during the last week, notably in Kent where 54% germination has been recorded. 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 use a fungicide soon. Soils are moist on the surface in many areas and Sclerotinia activity should increase further during May as soil temperatures rise.

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 with 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 remains at low levels but will be a threat to crops in the south and south-west later in the season. Light Leaf Spot is becoming more evident notably where fungicides have not been used since the autumn.

## ACTIONS

As significant sclerotia germination is well 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-bourne spores. The optimum timing of**

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**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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Caramba and Sunorg Pro contain metconazole.  
Filan contains boscalid.

**ALWAYS READ THE LABEL. USE PESTICIDES SAFELY.**

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