

BASF/ADAS Sclerotinia Monitoring

16th April 2009



Sclerotinia germination now active in the West and increasing slowly the East. Many crops are at early flowering and with an increasing risk of sclerotinia, fungicide treatments now need to be scheduled.

Weather conditions and osr growth stages

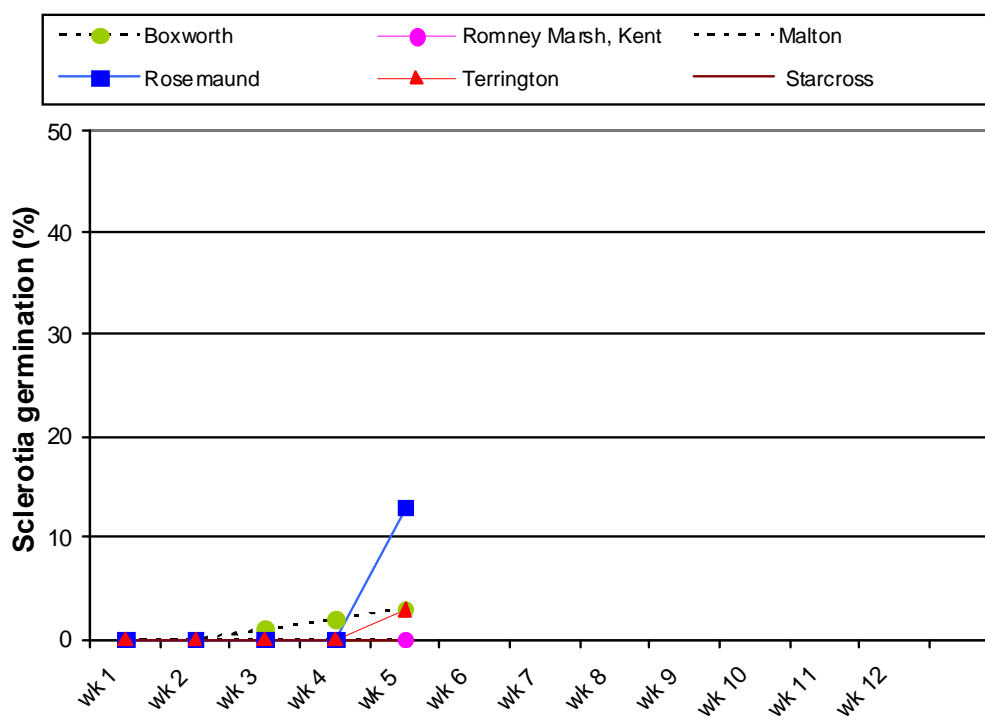
Overview: Crops are mainly in the early stages of flowering but there is considerable variation within and between fields. Late crops are still at the flower buds raised above the leaves stage. Where there are distinct yellow and green areas within fields, consider using different fungicide timings. Plant height is variable, mostly in the range 50-100 cm tall. Mean soil temperatures are starting to exceed 10°C in southern and central regions and sclerotial germination is now underway at 3 of the depot sites. Minimum temperatures are above 7°C on some days so conditions are more favourable for sclerotinia infection than at the same stage last year. Rain is forecast in some areas in the next few days and is likely to increase sclerotinia risk. It is now important to start making fungicide applications as crops reach early flowering. Where pgr treatments have been made, the sclerotinia fungicide should be applied 2-3 weeks later.

- SE and East Anglia – Many crops are at the early flowering stage, typically with more backward patches where pigeons and rabbits have damaged the crop. Soil temperatures are now reaching 10°C and sclerotial germination is increasing with the first record at the Terrington site in South Lincs this week. As night temperatures are sometimes above 7°C, there is likely to be a risk of sclerotinia infection when petals start to fall. There was a further 1% new germination this week at Boxworth but the dry soil at the Romney Marsh depot site may be hampering germination at that location. It should be assumed that there is still a risk in the South-East region. Plan early flowering fungicides for next week if pgr treatments are not being used.
- SW and West – Forward crops are moving from early to mid-flowering, but most crops are at or close to the early flowering stage. The first germination in the Hereford has recorded this week – there 13% germination which is the highest to date in the depot network. This follows last week's detection of apothecia (fruiting bodies) of sclerotinia in a first wheat crop. Start to plan early flowering fungicides where pgr treatments are not being used.
- Lincs, and E Midlands – Crops are generally at the yellow bud stage to early flowering stage. Sclerotinia activity has started in S. Lincs this week with 3% germination at Terrington. Soil temperatures are now favourable for sclerotial germination and night temperatures above 7°C could allow infection to occur earlier than last season. Fungicide treatments should considered for flowering crops now.
- N England - There are some crops at the early flowering stage though many are at the yellow bud stage. There is no germination at the northern depot but there could still be risk of sclerotinia already, particularly in areas where soil temperatures have reached 10°C. Sclerotial germination at High Mowthorpe has been much later than at other sites in recent years. However, the new depot is at lower altitude so may show earlier activity this season.

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Sclerotia Germination (refer to website map for exact locations)



Key points

Germination is now increasing significantly as soil temperatures have reached 10°C.

Petal infection results

The % petals infected with Sclerotinia spores are being measured at 6 sites at 3 different times - first flower and then for two more weeks. This supplements the sclerotia germination to show the degree of spore production and survival

ADAS site	Start of flowering		Early flower		Mid flowering	
	Date	% infection	Date	% infection	Date	% infection
Boxworth						
Exeter						
Kent						
Rosemaund						
Terrington						
Malton						

Key points The first petals tests are underway and some results should be available next week

Actions