

# BASF/ADAS Sclerotinia Monitoring

21<sup>st</sup> May 2009



Sclerotinia germination still slow, slight increases after recent heavy rain. Many crops have now finished flowering but there are late crops that are still flowering strongly. Warmer night temperatures and showery weather could still allow late Sclerotinia infection. Consider spray decisions on spring oilseed rape.

## Weather conditions and osr growth stages

Overview: Many crops have finished flowering and are overall green with full sized translucent seeds. Late crops are still flowering strongly whilst pigeon and pest damaged crops are likely to keep flowering for several weeks. Crops at high risk sites may still benefit from second sprays where flowering will continue up to the end of May. Sclerotial germination is now underway at all 6 depot sites and there has been some new germination after recent heavy rain. Minimum temperatures are now becoming more consistently above 7°C, the threshold for infection. Some petal sticking has been reported during the last week but this is mainly very light.. Conditions appear to have been most favourable for sclerotinia infection in the west so far this season. Petal tests are showing high levels of sclerotinia at high risk sites (40-50% petals infected). Some early infection could be underway and first symptoms should be evident now.

Spring oilseed rape is also susceptible to sclerotinia and fungicide treatment should be considered at early flowering whilst the weather remains unsettled.

- SE and East Anglia – Most crops that have finished flowering in the main body of the field and have well developed translucent seeds. Some late sown crops and areas with pigeon and rabbit damage are in full flower. Sclerotial germination has been restricted by the dry conditions. At Boxworth, germination has reached 25% but few apothecia are now present. Little petal sticking reported despite showery weather.
- There has been no increase in germination this week at the Romney Marsh site, but petal tests indicate high risks for some crops despite dry conditions. As night temperatures are sometimes above 7°C, there is still likely to be a risk of sclerotinia infection in flowering crops.
- SW and West – Most crops are at or beyond the end of flowering stage, but a few crops are still flowering quite strongly. The germination in the Starcross, Devon depot has increased after rain from the 6% recorded last week to 9%. At the Hereford site, germination has increased from 32% to 33%, which is the highest to date in the depot network. Petal tests are showing high levels of sclerotinia at high risk sites. As petals have been sticking to the foliage for more than a week, some stem lesions could soon be detectable. The west and south-west appear to be at higher risk than the east because of higher rainfall. Complete second sprays on strongly flowering crops at high risk sites.
- Lincs, and E Midlands – Crops are generally at end of flowering stage, some late sown crops are just beyond mid-flower. There has been some heavy rain during the last week and 5% new germination at Terrington, S. Lincs this week brings the total to 18%. Petal tests indicate that sclerotinia is active and could be damaging at high

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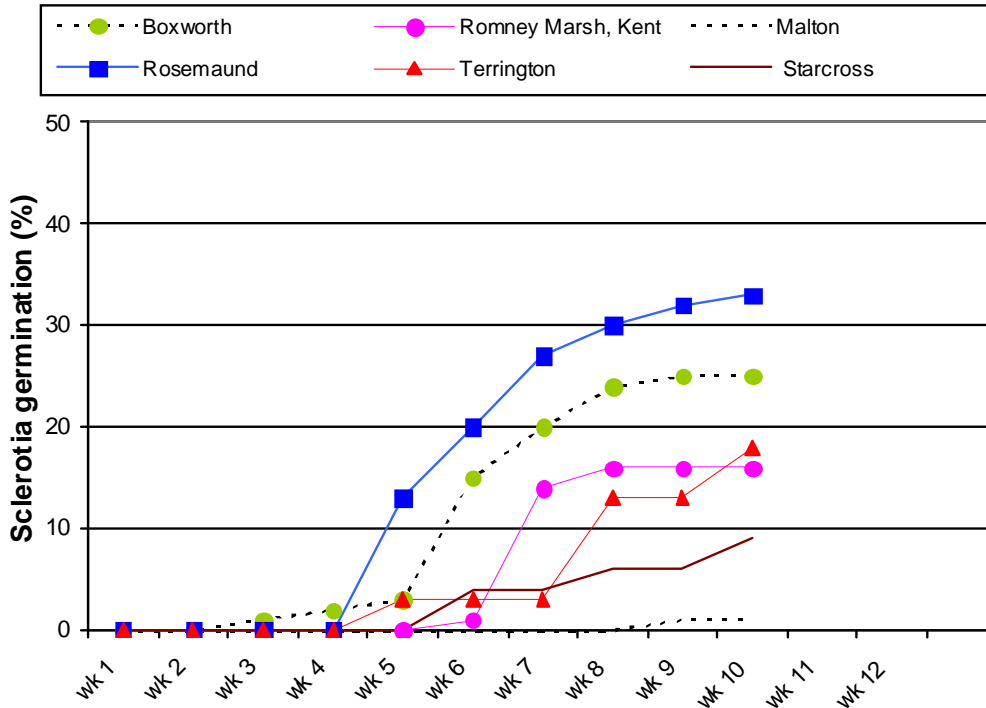
P.O. Box 4 – Earl Road – Cheadle Hulme – Cheadle – Cheshire SK8 6QG

Telephone: 0161 485 6222 – Fax: 0161 485 2229

risk sites. Rain and night temperatures above 7°C could still allow infection to occur, but petal sticking is limited.

- N England - Most crops are at the late flowering stage though there are some more backward crops. There has been no new germination at the northern depot, but the surrounding crop had a high level of petal infection indicating some crops in the region are at risk. Where there has been recent rain, there could be some risk of sclerotinia already. Night temperatures below 7°C have limited the number of 'infection events' so far.

**Sclerotia Germination (refer to website map for exact locations)**



**Key points**

*Germination has stalled at most sites because of dry weather. First record in North Yorkshire this week.*

**Petal infection results**

The % petals infected with Sclerotinia spores are being measured at 6 sites at 3 different times. This supplements the sclerotial germination to show the degree of spore production and survival. Note these are **not** selected to be high risk sites.

ADAS site	Start of flowering		Early flower		Mid flowering	
	Date	% infection	Date	% infection	Date	% infection
Boxworth	13 April	0	20 April	2.5	27 April	5
Exeter	20 April	12.5	29 April	20	6 May	17.5
Kent	13 April	47.5	20 April	22.5	29 April	22.5
Rosemaund	14 April	10	22 April	35	27 April	40
Terrington	17 April	25	24 April	20	29 April	2.5
Malton	7 May	47.5	11 May	45	18 May	

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**Key points: Sclerotinia has been found on petals at all sites tested so far. The third petal tests are underway and the preliminary results shown above may change as final counts are still to be completed after 10-14 days. Sclerotinia levels have increased since the start of flowering at Rosemaund, but decreased at Terrington. Five of the sites have results at or above the 25% petal infection threshold for economic damage from sclerotinia. The Kent, Malton and Terrington test scores have been high despite little germination in the depot when petals were sampled. Do not rely on dry weather to control your sclerotinia!**

### **Actions**

Plan the second sprays at high risks sites with strongly flowering crops so that protection will extend up to the end of flowering. In spring oilseed rape, a single spray just before mid-flowering may suffice. There are some dry areas but the lessons of 2007 have been learnt –even 6 weeks without rain will not prevent sclerotinia infection.