

Overview: Most crops have finished flowering and seeds are turning green. A considerable number of crops are still at the late flowering stage. Pigeon and pest damaged crops are still likely to keep flowering for several weeks.

Sclerotinia stem rot symptoms are present in some crops in the Hereford area and in the south-west. High risk sites have 5-10% plants affected in untreated areas with lesions developing mainly below the mid-plant level. Fungicides have given good control. In the east and south only traces of infection have been reported so far. The return to unsettled weather could still produce some late infection, though this is unlikely to have much effect on yield.

Sclerotial germination has been lower than usual this season in the depots. However petal tests have confirmed that there has been considerable air-borne production in some fields even where germination was low in the depots. Germination is continuing at low levels and there has been some new activity after recent rain.

Spring oilseed rape is also susceptible to sclerotinia and fungicide treatment should be considered at early to mid-flowering whilst the weather remains unsettled. Crops are at early flowering or close to flowering at present. Cultivation to establish spring oilseed rape could well result in a later germination of sclerotia than that reported for winter oilseed rape. Risks will be higher where soils are moist to the surface.