

# Sugar Beet

## Technical Update 07

21 June 2016

### UPL Sugar Beet Herbicide Trials – Suffolk 2016

This is the last sugar beet update for the 2016 season! It has not been a particularly easy one, but most crops will now be receiving final herbicide treatments if they have not already done so. In general, clethodim for black-grass control seems to have worked well whatever the timing, and in trials reducing spray intervals down to 7 days seemed to have had no impact on the crop.

Where canopy closure still has to be achieved and in ‘gappy’ crops, a final check for late emerging volunteer OSR would be sensible – see later comments on control. A summary of herbicide applications to the UPL Europe Ltd. (UPL) ABLW trials is provided in Table 1.

Visits to trials will continue up until the 14<sup>th</sup> July 2016, so if you have not yet arranged a visit and would like to do so, please contact us. In the trials we compare 16 different programmes looking at UPL and competitors’ products at a range of rates and timings at two different sites. The UPL standard **Betasana Trio** programme has performed well (Photo 1 + details below) based on a conventional three-spray approach, it will be interesting to compare this with other treatments when we look at overall costs and efficacy – it should come out well!



Photo 1. Betasana Trio Standard Programme

- **Betasana Trio** 1.25 l/ha + **Bettix Flo** 0.75 l/ha + Toil
- **Betasana Trio** 1.25 l/ha + Venzar Flowable 0.4 l/ha + Toil
- **Betasana Trio** 1.50 l/ha + **Bettix Flo** 1.0 + Toil

Members of the UPL team will be present at the forthcoming BBRO events on the dates and venues listed below, so do please come and say hello to us, and if you have used UPL products we would be interested to hear how you have got on this season.

- Tuesday **21<sup>st</sup> June 2016** - **Wimblington**, Cambridgeshire, PE15 0PE
- Thursday **23<sup>rd</sup> June 2016** - **Garboldisham**, Suffolk, IP22 2SQ
- Tuesday **28<sup>th</sup> June 2016** - **Morley**, Wymondham, Norfolk, NR18 9DF

Table 1. Details of ABLW Sugar Beet Trials 2016 - Suffolk

Location	Trial objective	Drilling date	Pre-em	T1	T2	T3	T4
Mendlesham	ABLWs	28.03.16	–	30.04.16	09.05.16	26.05.16	06.06.16
Yaxley	ABLWs	22.03.16	–	13.04.16	05.05.16*	26.05.16	06.06.16

\* The first ‘Broadacre’ and the first spray in the ‘Delayed Programme’ were sprayed on the 9<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at Yaxley.

### Late Emerging Volunteer Oilseed Rape (*Brassica napus ssp. Oleifera*)

It is worth carrying out a final check on beet fields where canopy closure has not yet been reached and where volunteer OSR is present in the rotation. The number of volunteer OSR seedlings that have emerged in the last few days is phenomenal in some fields (Photo 2) - it will be beneficial to control these. In the UPL sugar beet herbicide trials there are differences in how well later emerging volunteer OSR is being controlled, final counts will give us some useful information to talk about at the winter technical meetings.

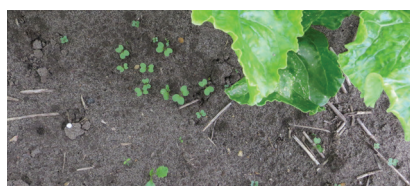


Photo 2. Volunteer OSR Seedlings

#### Diagnostic Features of OSR Seedlings

- Kidney shaped cotyledons.
- Leaves are smooth-surfaced and blue / green in colour.
- First leaves are oval in shape with shallow indentations.
- Can be confused with charlock, and they’re not easy to differentiate between the two at cotyledon stage – field cropping history is a good clue.

**Table 2. Suggested Products for Volunteer OSR Control**

Crop	Yield effect	Key actives	Comments	Suggested products
<b>Volunteer OSR</b>	One plant/m <sup>2</sup> can reduce yields by 10% or more*	triflurosulfuron-methyl phenmedipham desmedipham lenacil	OSR can be controlled relatively easily and suits a delayed spray programme. Seedlings will continue to emerge until canopy closure.	<b>Betasana Trio 1.0l/ha</b> + <b>Debut 15-20g/ha</b>

\* Ref: BBRO Sugar Beet Reference Book 2016

### Ethofumesate ‘Sticking’ on Sugar Beet



**Photo 3. Ethofumesate ‘Sticking’**

Some herbicide programmes will hit crops harder than others, but generally crop effects disappear after 7 to 10 days. There is still some evidence of crop effects in our trials this season, i.e. the ‘Broadacre’ approach seems to have been harder on the crop this year compared to previous seasons, and the use of a mineral oil earlier on certainly had an impact compared to the vegetable oil. Final vigour scores and plant counts will be available for discussion at winter technical updates. The effect of ethofumesate ‘sticking’ appears most seasons when the crop is under stress, it is not unusual to see this, but there seems to have been an increase in observations this season, see Photo 3. Stunted, crinkled and fused leaves are common symptoms. The effects do not cause economic damage and affected plants should recover quickly as soon as it rains – so based on that comment most symptoms should have now disappeared!

### Reference Books

For some of the ‘younger agronomists’ who are interested in the sugar beet crop, the following books may be of interest:

- Compendium of Beet Diseases and Pests, second edition (APS Press, ISBN 978-0-89054-365-8).
- Sugar Beet – Edited by A. Philip Draycott (Blackwell Publishing, ISBN 1-4051-1911-X).
- Nutrients for Sugar Beet Production, Soil-Plant Relations – A. Philip Draycott and Donald R. Christenson (CABI Publishing, ISBN 978-0-85199-623-3).
- Sugar Beet Reference Book – BBRO Publication issued annually.
- British Sugar Beet Review – published jointly by British Sugar plc & BBRO.

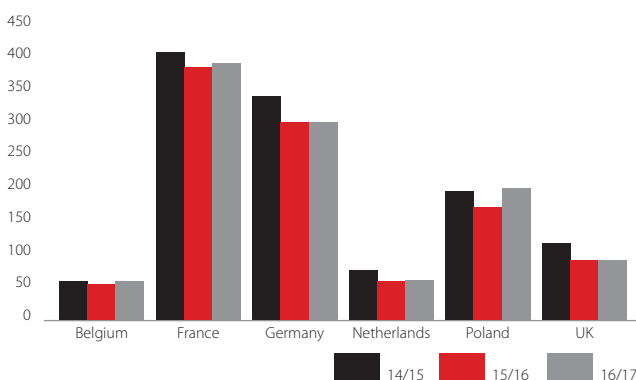
### Sugar Beet Performance in Europe

Finally, some figures for the European sugar beet crop which were sourced from the GAIN report E16020 published on the 25<sup>th</sup> April 2016 (Graphs 1 and 2). Also included within this report was the following statement:

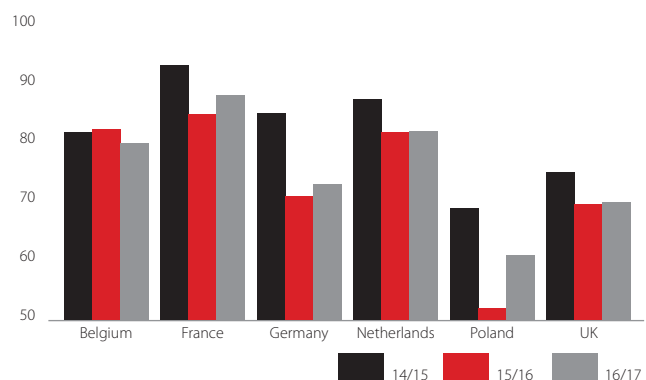
“Sugar beet processors in France, Germany and the Benelux have expressed their intentions to expand production without significant investments by optimizing their production capacity. Post sources indicate that total EU production could expand by 5%, while processors in France have expressed intentions to increase production by up to 20% or more.”

However, it is best to read these reports in full so as not to take things out of context. The GAIN Reports can be downloaded from the following FAS website and make interesting reading: <http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Pages/Default.aspx>

**Graph 1. Area, Thousands of Hectares**



**Graph 2. Sugar Beet Yield in MT Per Hectare**



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