

Sugar Beet Technical Update

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8 May 2014

Table 1. UPL Sugar Beet Herbicide Trials progress

Location	Trial objective	Drilling date 2014	Crop growth stage	Pre-em	T1	T1/T2 (graminicide)	T2
Suffolk	Weed screen	20.03.14	–	Not applied	29.04.14	Not applied	
	ABLWs*	20.03.14	6 TL	Not applied	10.01.14	Not applied	22.04.14
Norfolk	ABLWs*	12.03.14	6 TL	Not applied	15.04.14	Not applied	
	Black-grass	12.03.14	6 TL	14.03.14	15.04.14	03.04.14	

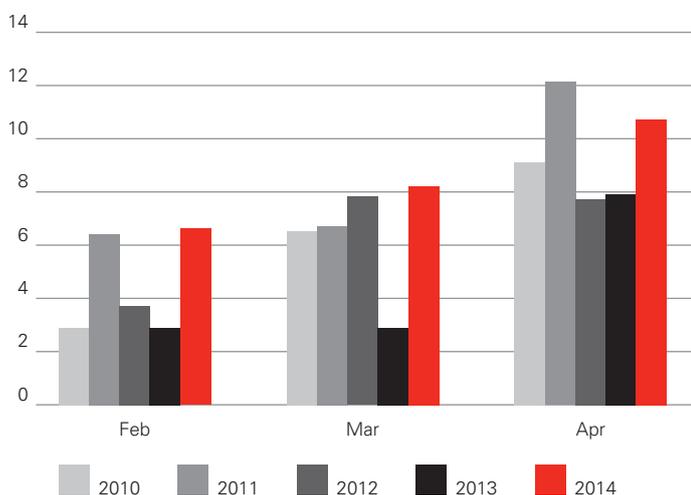
*Annual Broad-leaved Weeds

UPL sugar beet ABLW trials – general update and weather

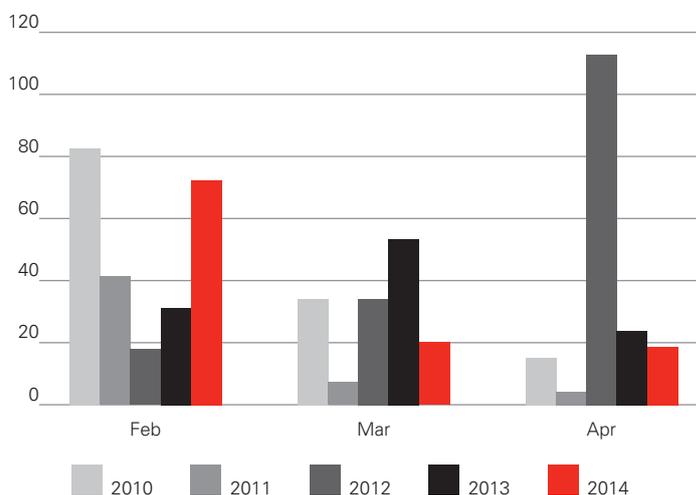
The UPL ABLW sugar beet trial in Suffolk is looking really well with the crop at 6 true leaves and excellent even establishment. At the Norfolk site we are suffering from drier conditions and a more 'cloddy' seed bed with crop growth stages variable. The UPL trial sites are probably a reasonable reflection of what is happening over the sugar beet growing region, some areas having received more rainfall than others which is impacting on crop growth and herbicide choice and seed beds varying from very good to 'difficult'.

Graphs 1 and 2 show monthly temperature and rainfall data for East Anglia but they hide local variation. Over-all temperatures for 2014 are warmer compared to the last two years and conditions are drier, this can mean where rainfall has been on the low side weeds may be 'tougher' to control. Don't be misled by the size of weeds, looking back to when conditions were dry and warm in 2011, weeds were small and sometimes difficult to control. If possible check out on farm or local weather information to help with decisions on spray timings, product choice and rates and look to use adjuvants if possible. Remember 'Small can be Difficult'.

Graph 1. Mean Monthly Temperatures (°C) – East Anglia (Source Met.Office UK)



Graph 2. Monthly Rainfall (mm) – East Anglia (Source Met.Office UK)



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Photo 1: Untreated plots 05.04.14

ABLWs at the Suffolk site

At the UPL trials site in Suffolk we have a large range of annual broad-leaved weeds as can be seen in Photo 1. Some of these weeds are now getting quite large with Redshank (Photo 2) and Field pansies now at the 7 true leaf plus stage. Also present in reasonable numbers are Volunteer oilseed rape, and Black-bindweed (*Bilderdykia convolvulus*). In smaller numbers are Pale persicaria (*Polygonum lapathifolium*), Fat-hen (*Chenopodium album*) and Common orache (*Atriplex patula*). At this stage it is difficult to distinguish between Fat-hen and Orache see UPL Update No 3 2013 for notes on identification, this is available on the UPL web site www.upsugarbeet.co.uk/updates. Other weeds are present but in smaller numbers. Accurate counts of weeds will be taken after all sprays have been applied.



Photo 2: Redshank (*Persicaria maculosa*) 05.04.14

Controlling 'larger and tougher' weeds – some ideas!

In some situations the decision has been taken to delay sprays until the crop is at the 1st true leaves are at 1cm or beyond, this may be for a number of reasons – i.e. to fit in with graminicide applications, where spraying other crops have taken priority or to try and reduce the number of spray applications.

At the Suffolk site we have two treatments where the first sprays were applied on 22.04.14 where weeds were getting large, Photo 3 and the crop was at the 4 true leaf stage, Photo 4. Photo 5 shows weeds in the same plot taken on 06.05.14 and illustrates how effectively Field pansies were controlled. Conditions at spraying are given in Table 2.



Photo 3: Weeds in Treatment 15 plots just after spraying on the 22.04.14

Table 2. Weather conditons at spraying – Suffolk 2014

	1st post-em	2nd post-em
Date of application	10 April	22 April
Air temp °C	15	16
Relative humidity %	60	67

The two delayed treatments in the UPL ABLW trials are:-

Treatment 12

- **Betasana Trio** (desmedipham + phenmedipham + ethofumesate) 1.75 + **Bettix Flo** (metamitron) 0.75 + Oil 0.75

Treatment 15

- **Beetup Compact SC** (desmedipham + phenmedipham) 2.0 + **Ethofol 500** (ethofumesate) 0.4 + **Debut** (triflusalufuron-methyl) 20g + **Venzar Flowable** (lenacil) 0.4 + **Bettix Flo** (metamitron) 0.5 + Oil (0.75)

Both of the above treatments have been very effective in controlling the weeds present, note that Treatment 12 does not contain any Debut but Volunteer oilseed rape has been 'frazzled' see Photo 6! Conditions were good for spraying and rainfall was received recently which helped as weeds were growing actively, not all areas have been so fortunate. Further information on UPL supported mixes are given on our web site www.upsugarbeet.co.uk/portfolio.

We have noted that some treatments have been kinder to the crop with SC formulations being the kindest and the SE and OD ones less so. This is worth taking into account if spraying late drilled crops where emergence is variable and some plants are only just 'peaking' through and are struggling a little.



Photo 4: Crop on 22.04.14



Photo 5: Dead pansies



Photo 6: 'Frazzled' Volunteer oilseed rape

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General comments from around the sugar beet growing areas

Potatoes and thistles are emerged/emerging more on controlling those in the next update and weeds are now more apparent. Black bindweed, Pale persicaria and Redshank appear to be the most common polygonums with Fat-hen and Knot-grass present but not as common as in some years – but still early days, and it does vary according to area and soil type.

A number of 2nd herbicide applications have now been made where 1st sprays were applied in early/mid April and 3rd sprays are now being applied or contemplated on some fields, depending on weed emergence. Where the FAR system is being used on lighter land spraying is well under way with 3rd or 4th sprays going on.

There has been some concern about colder conditions with localised sharp overnight frosts on Friday night / early Saturday morning in some areas, but no reports of crop damage. Continue to take care with respect to spray intervals and the use of adjuvants if any further frosts are forecast.

Mystery Weeds – Richard has a friend called Bill!

Several people managed to correctly identify 'Richard' last week and received full points (10), there is one last opportunity to have an attempt at identifying Richard to gain 5 points. We include a photograph of Richard's cousin who is at first true leaf stage as Richard is not growing very quickly, he probably didn't like being 'potted' up ready to come to BBRO field days!



Photo 7: Richard at cotyledon stage



Photo 8: Richard's cousin – first true leaves



Photo 9: Bill – first true leaf emerged

Also this week we introduce Richard's friend Bill, to make it easier we have shown his first true leaf you may want to look closely at the cotyledons. Full points (10) will be awarded for correctly identifying Bill this week. Send your suggestions to ldalglish@uniphos.com or on Twitter @UPL_UK. We will be taking Bill and Richard plus friends to the BBRO open days.

To aid with identification there is a very good interactive web site at <http://web.adas.co.uk/WeedManager/searchyoung.aspx>

BASIS points for the technical information provided by Sugar Beet Technical Update are CP/30274/1213/g (2 CPD). To claim please e-mail scott@basis-reg.co.uk.

Information in this update does not constitute a recommendation, it is for guidance only. Up to date information can be found on our websites www.upleurope.com or www.upsugarbeet.co.uk.

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