

Sugar Beet

Technical Update

UPL ABLW Trials Suffolk 2015

We have received welcome rain over the weekend in Suffolk (10mm) and sugar beet plants are at the 4-6 true leaf stage (Photo 1) and can clearly be seen in the rows (Photo 2). Rain in conjunction with warmer daytime temperatures will mean that control from herbicides applied this coming week can be expected to be reasonable to good, although watch out for frost warnings! It will be interesting to see how our first 'Broadacre Sprays' perform when applied in a few days time. Some areas have not been so fortunate as Suffolk and are still very dry having received only a few mm of rain, weeds in these situations are going to be more difficult to control. The inclusion of desmedipham and adjuvant oils will help where weeds have become 'hardened'.

Table 1 Details of sugar beet trials 2015

Location	Trial objective	Drilling date	Crop growth stage	T1	T2
Mendlesham Suffolk	ABLW's	23.03.15 (Hornet)	4 to 6 true leaves	16.04.15	This week
Yaxley Suffolk	ABLW's	15.03.15 (Haydn)	4 to 6 true leaves	14.04.15	This week



Photo 1: Sugar beet at Yaxley site

'Broadacre' programme

The 'Broadacre' programme was developed by Dupont a few years ago and is gaining in popularity, it can mean reductions in over-all spray costs but also fewer passes with the sprayer and a saving in time. The 'Broadacre' approach can also fit in well with a black-grass control programme where graminicides take priority over annual broad-leaved weeds spray. First herbicide sprays in the 'Broadacre' programme should not be applied until the first true leaves of the crop are at least 1cm, it can be daunting to delay herbicide sprays until this growth stage!



Photo 2: Sugar beet showing in rows at Yaxley site

'Broadacre' treatments at UPL trial sites for 2015

The two 'Broadacre' treatments that will be applied this coming week at both trials sites are:

Trt. 14 BETASANA TRIO 2.0l/ha + Debut 20g/ha + Venzar Flowable 0.4l/ha + **BETTIX FLO** 0.5l/ha + Oil

Trt. 15 BEETUP COMPACT 2.0l/ha + **ETHOFOL 500SC** 0.4l/ha + Debut 20g/ha + Venzar Flowable 0.4l/ha + **BETTIX FLO** 0.5l/ha + Oil

Note: Betasana Trio = phenmedipham + desmedipham + ethofumesate, Bettix Flo = metamitron, Beetup Compact = phenmedipham + desmedipham, Ethofol = ethofumesate.

A follow up spray to both of these treatments based on the same products will be applied in about 14 days time. Photos 3 to 6 shows the size of the weeds on 26.04.15 in the 'Broadacre' plots prior to any sprays being applied, it can be disconcerting to see weeds this size, but if you can 'hold your nerve' this approach can be cost effective and save time! The sugar beet in the two UPL trials have grown rapidly over the last few days and are healthy and able to tolerate a spray application that consists of high rates of contact and residual actives. Remember do NOT use the 'Broadacre' approach if beet are at all stressed.



Photo 3: Black-bindweed in 'Broadacre' plot



Photo 4: Cleavers in 'Broadacre' plot



Photo 5: Field Pansy in 'Broadacre' plot



Photo 6: Fat-hen and Red dead-nettle in 'Broadacre' plot

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Delayed programme

Within the UPL trials programme we also have a delayed programme, until now these plots have not received any herbicides, this week they will be sprayed with the following treatment, results will be compared with programmes that started 2 weeks ago and also with the robust 'Broadacre' programmes.

Trt.12 BETASANA TRIO 1.75l/ha + BETTIX FLO 0.75l/ha + Oil

Is it the year of the 'Black bindweed' (*Fallopia convolvulus*)?

Key facts about black bindweed were given in last week's Technical Update, as a reminder to identification see Diagram 1 and Photo 7. This week we have seen high numbers of black bindweed emerging at the Yaxley trials site and Pat Turnbull (Independent Agronomist) has reported situations where sugar beet plants are difficult to spot amongst the black bindweed.

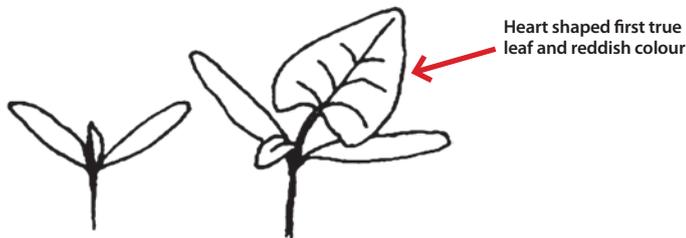


Diagram 1: Black-bindweed (Source: Morley Bulletin No. 27. 1987)



Photo 7: Black-bindweed untreated plot

The recent rain will help with the control of black-bindweed, ensure programmes contain phenmedipham, desmedipham and lenacil if true leaves are present. In some areas where rainfall has been almost non-existent i.e. around 2mm as in parts of Lincolnshire then it will be important to keep rates up as weeds under these conditions will be tougher to control, especially if combined with the now forecast cooler daytime temperatures and rural frosts for some areas.

Suggested treatments based on UPL products, adjust rates according to size of beet and bindweed:

- **BETASANA TRIO 2.0 + Venzar Flowable 0.4 + Oil OR**
- **BEETUP COMPACT 2.0 + Venzar Flowable 0.4 + Oil**

The 'Broadacre' treatments would also be effective.

Mendlesham trials site

At the Mendlesham trials site cleavers are still emerging and are definitely the predominate weed, with the rain they are looking less stressed, so should be easier to control. A number of programmes within the trial include triflurosulfuron-methyl (as in Debut and Safari Lite WSB) which is a key active for cleaver control along with ethofumesate (as in **ETHOFOL 500SC**). On some of the cleavers first whorls are emerging so sprays applied towards the end of this week will be well timed. As mentioned earlier, in areas where rainfall has not been received then weeds will be more difficult to control, the higher rates of herbicides are likely to be required.

Suggested treatments when beet are at GS (12-14) based on UPL products are:

- **BETASANA TRIO 1.5 to 2.0 l/ha + Debut 10 to 15g/ha + Venzar Flowable 0.2 to 0.4l/ha + Oil**
(If black bindweed is present use Venzar Flowable) **OR**
- **BETASANA TRIO 1.5 to 2.0 l/ha + Debut 10 to 15g/ha + BETTIX FLOWABLE 0.5l/ha + Oil**

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