

Carrot sclerotinia monitoring

29 August 2019

Key points

- No further sclerotial germination this week. Forecast rain may stimulate germination.
- Fungicide applications should be made at intervals of no more than two weeks.

Actions



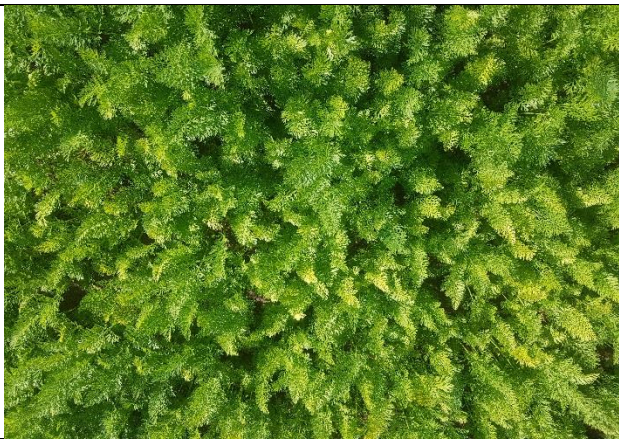

- Monitor crops frequently for symptoms of sclerotinia.
- For crops at risk, continue fungicide application at intervals of no more than two weeks, ensuring that fungicides with different active ingredients are used.

Overview

This is the eighth report this year for sclerotinia monitoring in two carrot crops, both of which now have 100% ground cover. There was no new sclerotial germination at either the Nottinghamshire or the Suffolk site last week (see chart below), and no new reports of further active sclerotinia growth on senescent foliage, as found last week in Suffolk. Most likely, the dry weather last week held back sclerotial germination and crop infection. Crops that are receiving weekly fungicide sprays appear free of sclerotinia infection so far. It is important to monitor crops frequently for physical damage and senescent foliage. Varieties such as Nairobi have foliage which flops and senesces early, increasing the risk of infection by sclerotinia, whereas varieties with more upright leaves are less susceptible. For crops at risk, apply protectant fungicides just before canopy closure and then repeat at no more than 14 day intervals. It is essential to use products from at least two different fungicide groups to support resistance management strategies. If there is a phase of consistently wet weather, weekly fungicide applications are commonly used but will help control other diseases such as alternaria and mildew which are encouraged by damp and senescent foliage.

Weather conditions

The past week at both sites has been very dry with less than 5mm overall in the East Midlands region and less than 1 mm in the Eastern region. Dry soil and crop conditions will have reduced the risk of sclerotinia infection at many sites. Temperatures last week were warm, averaging 20°C in both Nottinghamshire and Suffolk, but with some much warmer individual day time temperatures. Cooler conditions are forecast over the coming weekend, with likely rain in many areas. High pressure is expected from the south west towards the end of next week.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE SITE	SUFFOLK SITE
Var. Norfolk, drilled 30 April 2019	Var. Nairobi, drilled week 24 June 2019
	
26 August, carrot canopy, ground cover 100%	29 August, carrot canopy, ground cover 100%
	
26 August, close up of canopy	29 August, close up of canopy
<p>Comments There has been no further sclerotial germination this week, with mainly dry weather and increasing temperatures over the previous week. Irrigation is underway again at this site, as the soil moisture deficits have increased and soil surfaces are dry. It is possible that irrigation may stimulate some new apothecia to appear. The crop foliage looks healthy at present in main crops that have been receiving regular fungicide applications. Early virus infections are obvious but affecting a very low percentage of plants, and unless the infection develops further this should have little effect on yield or quality.</p>	<p>Comments Very little rainfall in this area last week has resulted in dry soil again, and no sclerotial germination has been recorded yet. However, this is not uncommon for in this area. However, sclerotinia infection has been seen in other crops in this area last week, indicating that inoculum is present and infection risk may increase if wetter weather occurs. The canopy is close to complete closure last week but is now at 100 % ground cover and growing well.</p>

Sclerotial germination (refer to website map for exact locations)

Depots of sclerotia are being monitored near Mansfield, Nottinghamshire and Herringswell, Suffolk
Sclerotia collected from infected carrot crops the previous year were shallow-buried at both sites, in winter in nearby wheat crops and at drilling in the monitor carrot crops.

