

# Carrot sclerotinia monitoring

**8 August 2019**

## Key points

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- Recent rain fall has stimulated a further 8% of sclerotia to germinate at the Nottinghamshire monitor crop, so airborne spore inoculum is likely to be present.
- Canopy closure and the development of senescent foliage will increase the risk of infection.

## Actions

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- **Crops should be monitored for sclerotinia symptoms.**
- **Protectant fungicides are strongly advised ahead of canopy closure. After that, repeat applications with up to two week intervals are advised, using fungicides with different active ingredients.**

## Overview

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This is the fifth report this year for sclerotinia monitoring in two carrot crops. The Nottinghamshire site had 8% new germination this week, but again, the Suffolk site had none (see chart below) even in the adjacent wheat crop where the sclerotia are in damper conditions. There has been localised heavy rain which may have caused physical damage to plants, and wounds on stems and leaves are a route for infection by sclerotinia. Senescent foliage is also a route for infection, so the risk of disease will increase where leaves have senesced, especially where they collapse onto the soil surface. Carrot crops and nearby susceptible crops should be checked for sclerotinia infection. For at-risk crops, fungicide applications are advised before canopy closure, ensuring that the coverage reaches stem bases and root crowns. After that, repeat treatments at up to 14 day intervals are usually applied, following product label instructions and ensuring that different fungicide active ingredients are used in alternate sprays, or in mixtures where permitted.

## Weather conditions

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Both sites were warm last week with average regional temperatures of around 18-19°C, with some rain but not as much as in the previous week: 9.4mm in Nottinghamshire (East Midlands average was 11mm, compared to 20.5mm the previous week) and 5.2mm in Suffolk (Eastern region average was 9.4mm, compared to 21.2mm the previous week). Unsettled weather is forecast to persist into the start of the coming weekend and at the start of next week.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE SITE	SUFFOLK SITE
Var Norfolk, drilled 30 April 2019	Var Nairobi, drilled week 24 June 2019
	
5 August, carrot canopy, ground cover 100%	5 August, carrots at 6-7 leaf stage. Ground cover 60-70% within beds
	
5 August, carrot canopy close up	5 August, carrots at 6-7 Leaf stage
<p><b>Comments</b> Over the past 7 days the rain and sunny intervals has encouraged carrot leaf canopy growth, and a further 8% sclerotial germination. Soils under the crop canopy are moist at present and in the more leafy areas in fields, a few older leaves are now showing signs of senescence. The crop canopy looks healthy at present but weekly fungicide applications are being applied to provide as much protection as possible.</p>	<p><b>Comments</b> Rain and sun this week has helped growth, and the crop now looks more vigorous. The soil surface has dried out but underneath is damp, and further rain may start to stimulate sclerotial germination, within the monitor grids or elsewhere.</p>

**Sclerotia 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.

