



BLUE MOULD WARNING SERVICE GENERAL REPORT FOR 2004

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Introduction:

The Blue Mould Warning Service of CORESTA has been active since 1963, and has been coordinated by the General Secretariat in Paris. It was recently decided to merge it with the Sub-Group Blue Mould Study, with effect from 2005.

The following zones and countries are covered, although a contact has not necessarily been established with every single country listed in the table hereunder.

Zones and countries

North Africa: Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia

Middle-East: Iran, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey

South East Europe: Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Macedonia, Romania, Serbia

South West Europe: France, Italy, Portugal, Spain

Northern & Central Europe: Austria, Belgium, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Switzerland.

Thirty-six organisations from twenty-four countries participated in 2004 in the Blue Mould Warning Service (same figures as for 2003).

Sixteen warnings (against 15 in 2003), signalling 26 areas of infestation in the investigated zone, were despatched by the General Secretariat to the participating Organisations, and also displayed on the CORESTA web-site.

General Outlook

Very few outbreaks were reported on seedbeds, and in spite of the numerous outbreaks reported on the field, it seems that overall damage was kept at a very low level.

Compared with other years, blue mould appeared fairly later, and half of the warnings were issued after mid-July, an unusual proportion.

The following table gives a summary of the warnings despatched in 2004.

Blue Mould Warning Service - Warnings despatched in 2004

N°	Date of Outbreak	Seedbed (S) Field (F)	Country (Region)	Observations
1	11 March	S	Tunisia Kelibia	Dark air-cured tobacco variety 8-4/7-2 - Light, localised outbreak in seedbeds at transplanting stage.
		F	Tunisia Gabès	Snuff tobacco variety Souffi Gabès – Light, outbreak on field tobacco (10 leaf stage). Climatic conditions favourable to blue mould. In both cases, treatment with Ridomil MZ 58.
2	18 April	S	Iran Golestan Mazandaran	Outbreak in seedbeds on Virginia tobacco seedlings at transplanting stage. Chlorotic spots with medium sporulation.
	21 April	S		Treatment with Metalaxyl-Mancozeb.
3	20 April	S	Tunisia Sejenane (north-east)	Sejenane – Medium to serious outbreak on young plants (4 leaf stage). Local dark air-cured tobacco variety 8-4/7-2.
		F	Gabès (south-east)	Gabès – Serious outbreak on field tobacco (10-12 leaf stage). Local snuff variety Souffi Gabès. Climatic conditions very favourable to blue mould. Treatment with Ridomil MZ 58.
4	6-8 May	S	Iran Tirtash	Outbreak of blue mould in seedbeds on seedlings at transplanting stage. Variety Bergerac C – systemic symptoms with deformation of veins. Variety Burley 21 – chlorotic spots with medium sporulation. Treatment with Metalaxyl mancozeb.
5	18 June	F	Bulgaria Plovdiv	First outbreak of blue mould on tobacco in the field (4-6 leaf stage). 5 ha of Virginia 454 variety affected - chlorotic spots with high sporulation. Climatic conditions very favourable to blue mould. Treatment with Metalaxyl mancozeb.
6	7 July	F	Germany Forchheim	Very light outbreak of blue mould on tobacco in the field. A few flue-cured tobacco breeding lines and one burley tobacco breeding line with blue mould symptoms on one leaf each (a few spots sporulated). Affected leaves removed - tobacco treated with Forum (15% Dimethomorph).
7	7 July	F	Poland (Southern)	Infection reported from 3 fields in the southern part of Poland. 8% out of 5 hec. infected (10 leaves on a plant with 10 spots on each leaf in average). Variety TN 86. Affected leaves removed and tobacco treated with Ridomil Gold MZ 68 WG.

Blue Mould Warning Service - Warnings despatched in 2004 (Continued)

N°	Date of Outbreak	Seedbed (S) Field (F)	Country (Region)	Observations
8	19 July	F	Switzerland	Blue mould outbreak on Burley var. BS93. Tobacco plants are approx. 1,50 m high, harvesting of bottom leaves in course. Plot treated with Ridomil Gold, and a new treatment scheduled after a couple of days
9	20 July	F	Poland (south-east)	3 leaves on a plant with 3 lesions on each leaf in average. Variety Wislica. Ridomil Gold MZ 68 WG was used as a preventive spray on 7th July. Affected leaves removed. 3 leaves in average reaped to improve ventilation.
	20 July	F	France (Eastern)	Outbreak of blue mould on a plot of 2 ha of ITB501 (Burley) at blossoming stage, under climatic conditions very conducive to blue mould. Treatment: 3 x Bion MX + 1 Maneb
	20 July	F	France (Western)	Outbreak of blue mould on a plot of 1 ha of ITB33024 (Virginia) at blossoming stage, under climatic conditions very conducive to blue mould. A few spots on lower stalk leaves. Treatment: Bion MX
10	21 July	F	Germany (Western)	Light outbreak of blue mould on the field (var. Burley B901). A few sporulations. Affected leaves removed then tobacco treated with Forum (dimetomorph).
	22 July	F	France (Eastern)	Blue mould outbreak on a farm growing 4.50 ha of tobacco. Only 0.02 ha affected. Virginia varieties ITB 33024 and ITB 620 at blossoming stage. A few scattered spots with sporulation on lower stalk positions. Preventative treatment with manebe and Bion MX, then curative treatment when disease occurred.
11	27 July	F	France (Southwestern)	Blue mould outbreak on farm growing 1 ha of tobacco. 0.15 ha of burley variety BB16C at topping stage affected – a few spots on lower stalk positions. Preventative treatment with Bion MX. Pennebe used as curative treatment after outbreak. Conditions conducive to blue mould – hot, humid weather and tobacco field in poorly ventilated area.
12	28 July	F	Germany (Northern)	Blue mould outbreak on flue-cured tobacco variety Golta, just before flowering stage. Affected leaves removed and tobacco treated with Forum (15% Dimethomorph).
	3 Aug	F	Germany (Southern)	Light outbreak of blue mould on approximately 10 m ² of field tobacco - Burley variety B901. Affected leaves removed and tobacco treated with Forum (Dimethomorph).

Blue Mould Warning Service - Warnings despatched in 2004 (Continued)

N°	Date of Outbreak	Seedbed (S) Field (F)	Country (Region)	Observations
13	2 Aug	F	France (Western)	Non-systemic outbreak of blue mould on Virginia variety ITB33024. Plants at blooming stage. Sporulation on all stalk positions. Plants on affected plot (1.7 ha) destroyed. Conditions favourable to blue mould – high humidity.
14	28 Aug	F	France (Western)	Non-systemic outbreak of blue mould on 0.45 ha of Burley variety BB16A. Plants at post-topping stage. Sporulation on entire plant (light sporulation on upper stalk and intense sporulation on lower stalk positions). Plants not destroyed.
15	2 Sept	F	France (Southwestern)	Outbreak of blue mould on Burley tobacco variety ITB 221. Area of 0.20 ha affected on plot of 2.51 ha. Plants at blooming stage. Some sporulation on the lower stalk positions (X+C). Tobacco grown in a west facing zone shaded by plane trees. Plants in affected area destroyed.
16	7 Sept	F	France (Southwestern)	Non systemic outbreak of blue mould on 0.47 ha of Burley ITB 501. Post-topping stage. Sporulation on lower stalk positions. Late planted tobacco sown after storm, irregular growth. Plants not destroyed.
	9 Sept	F	France (Western)	Systemic outbreak of blue mould on 0.15 ha of Burley ITB 501. Tobacco at harvesting stage. Sporulation on entire plant, but especially on the upper stalk positions. Plot destroyed.
	14 Sept	F	France (Southwestern)	Non systemic outbreak of blue mould on 0.40 ha of Burley ITB 501. Tobacco at harvesting stage. Intense sporulation on lower stalk positions. Plot situated in valley shaded by poplar trees. Affected plants destroyed.
	13 Sept	F	Switzerland (Jura)	Outbreak of blue mould on approx. five plants – Burley tobacco variety 92. A few spots detected, start of sporulation. Affected plants destroyed – plot to be destroyed shortly.

SITUATION PER GEOGRAPHICAL ZONE

Very few reports were received as of early November. Participants are welcome to send a report on their own country.

SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE

Bulgaria

In 2004 Bulgaria grew approx. 45,000 ha of tobacco, including Virginia, Burley, Oriental and semi-oriental varieties (the figure for 2003 was 35,000 ha).

The first outbreaks occurred mid-June near Plovdiv on Burley and Flue-Cured fields, under climatic conditions conducive to the disease. By the end of June the whole southern part of Bulgaria was affected, for all types of tobaccos. An estimated 10% of the crop was affected.

Systemic-contact fungicide treatments with metalaxyl-based formulations (Ridomil Gold), dimetomorph (Acrobat MZ) and aluminum phosetil (Aliette) were applied successfully.

No metalaxyl-resistant strain was observed.

Cyprus

No occurrence of blue mould was observed on seedbeds or fields.

SOUTH WESTERN EUROPE

France (as of end of August)

Area grown

Type of tobacco	ha	% of total area
• Virginia	4 024	49
• Burley	3 306	41
• Dark air-cured	807	10
TOTAL	8 137	100

Area affected by blue mould

Type of tobacco	Affected area (ha)	% affected
• Virginia	2.7	<1 %
• Burley	2	<1 %
• Dark air-cured	0.15	Negligible
TOTAL	4.85	

Estimated loss : 5 tons of Virginia tobacco.

Preventative treatments are applied at regular intervals on seedbeds and fields. Resistant varieties are used.

Curative treatments consist of Bion MX application and destruction of most affected plots.

Italy

In Northern Italy, no outbreaks were observed. Bion MX or Ridomil Gold treatments are applied at regular intervals

In Southern Italy, a strong outbreak on seedbeds was observed on April 20th, and on the field on May 10th and 18th, both in Campania.

Treatments on the field are made with 4 - 5 sometimes more fungicides depending on the type of a.i. used. (dimetomorph; metalaxyl m alone or in mixture with acybenzolar S methyl and then mancozeb; Fosetyl al + mancozeb + cymoxanil; oxadixyl + mancozeb).

CENTRAL AND NORTHERN EUROPE

Hungary

No outbreak of blue mould was reported in Hungary in 2004.

Growers are advised to take preventive measures.

Chemicals used are:

Ridomil Gold 68WP (metalaxyl + mancozeb)

Amistar (azoxistrobin)

Dithane M-45 (mancozeb)

Alliette 80WP (Fosetil-AI)

MIDDLE EAST

Syria

In April and May, many outbreaks were observed on the fields, especially those transplanted early in the season, in the Baniyas area.

The disease was controlled by the extension services and tobacco growers.