



APHID ALERT UPDATE 1

GENERAL

There has been very little aphid flight activity as registered by either our suction-traps or the yellow water-traps this week, and therefore the likely impact of aphids is low at present.

POTATOES

Virus pressure has continued to drop throughout the country and is now low in all regions. **In Scotland the potato crop is that much later and cereal aphids leaving cereals may contribute to PVY vector pressure through August, but as yet numbers are low for the time of year. Further regional information on potato virus vectors can be accessed through August here: www.potato.org.uk/online-toolbox/aphid-monitoring.**

FIELD BRASSICAS

Numbers of the mealy cabbage aphid (*Brevicoryne brassicae*), the peach-potato aphid (*Myzus persicae*) and the willow-carrot aphid (*Cavariella aegopodii*) are now all very low. A single currant-lettuce aphid (*Nasonovia ribisnigri*) was caught in the suction-trap at Edinburgh this week.

PEAS and BEANS

Numbers of the pea aphid (*Acyrtosiphon pisum*) are generally low in the traps, with a minor hotspot at Wellesbourne (25). There have been widespread reports of virus infections in pea crops during 2015. The main viruses reported were Pea Enation Mosaic Virus (PEMV), Pea Seed-borne Mosaic Virus (PSbMV) and Pea Streak Virus (PSV), all three are aphid transmitted and the first two may also affect beans. Field reports suggest the high numbers of the black bean aphid (*Aphis fabae*) have declined across much of England, and this is reflected in our low trap catches.

OILSEED RAPE

Harvesting of winter oilseed rape is progressing well with some 80% now complete, spring rape harvesting has not yet started. Aphids are no longer an issue in spring crops. Peach-potato aphid (*Myzus persicae*) numbers are very low and, therefore, the risk to emerging crops is also low.

CEREALS

Harvesting across the country of winter barley is reaching completion (90%) and good progress is being made with winter wheat (10%). Harvesting of spring barley has begun (5%) and there is continued progress with winter oats (10%). Cereal aphid numbers overall remain low for the time of year, but it's too early to predict accurately what will happen in autumn.

Further information

Please send information on crop aphids to: mark-s.taylor@rothamsted.ac.uk

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