



APHID ALERT UPDATE 2

GENERAL

Overcast cool weather with at least two days heavy rain has resulted in a very little aphid flight activity in the last week and thus the likely impact of aphids remains low at present.

POTATOES

Virus pressure is now low in most regions. In Scotland with potato crops reaching the end of their growing season the risk of non-persistent potato virus transmission has been exceptionally low this year. 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 low. The currant-lettuce aphid (*Nasonovia ribisnigri*) was caught in the suction-traps at Elgin (1) and Wellesbourne (2) this week.

PEAS and BEANS

Harvesting of combining peas is now 60% complete. Numbers of the pea aphid (*Acyrtosiphon pisum*) are generally low in the traps, with minor suction-trap hotspots at Wellesbourne (22) and Hereford (24). There have been widespread reports of virus infections in pea crops during 2015. 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 is now 90% complete but spring rape harvesting has not yet started. Aphids are no longer an issue in spring crops. New season oilseed rape is now being drilled in some areas into good moist seed beds, but peach-potato aphid (*Myzus persicae*) numbers are very low at present and therefore, the risk to emerging crops is low.

CEREALS

Harvesting across the country of winter barley is drawing to a close and progress is being made with winter wheat (40%). There is also good progress with harvesting of spring barley (20%) and with winter oats (35%). Cereal aphid numbers overall remain low for the time of year, with highest numbers in the north as they leave the remaining standing crops (grain aphid suction-trap hotspot at Elgin (392)). 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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