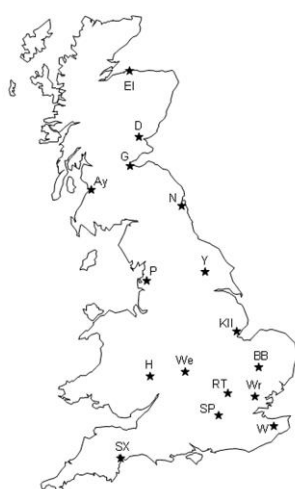


## APHID ALERT UPDATE 2

Suction-trapping period 14<sup>th</sup> December 2015 - 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2016

### APHID-BORNE VIRUSES IN WINTER CEREALS (BYDV) AND OILSEED RAPE (TuYV)

## SUCTION-TRAPPING



Suction-trap sites

Met Office figures suggest last month was the wettest December on record. The UK mean temperature for December was a record breaking at 7.9°C, which is 4.1°C above the long-term average. The previous record was 6.9°C in 1934. The temperatures for December 2015 were closer to those normally experienced during April or May. Along with the remarkable warmth, there has been a virtual complete lack of air frost across much of England. The exceptionally mild weather has led to further late aphid flight activity in south west and south east England, particularly during the week 14<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> December but less so 21<sup>st</sup> December to 3<sup>rd</sup> January.

Site	<i>Rhopalosiphum padi</i>			<i>Myzus persicae</i>	
	14-20/12	21/12 – 3/1		14-20/12	21/12 – 3/1
Newcastle	0	0		0	0
York	0	1		1	0
Preston	8	0		0	0
Kirton	0	2		0	0
Broom's Barn	2	2		0	0
Wellesbourne	0	1		0	2
Hereford	7	7		1	1
Rothamsted	NA	NA		NA	NA
Writtle	13	2		1	0
Silwood	4	2		0	1
Wye	8	7		2	0
Starcross	30	3		1	0

It has been very wet through most of December and it is possible that this will have restricted aphid movement within crops, in particular the bird cherry–oat aphid, *Rhopalosiphum padi*, in winter cereals, which tends to preferentially infest leaves and stems close to the ground. However, in the less extreme wet areas, aphids will be multiplying and moving within many autumn-sown crops, so the risk of virus spread (BYDV and TuYV) is still **high**.

We have received two field reports of wingless aphids thriving on winter cereals, one of bird cherry –oat aphid, *Rhopalosiphum padi*, in Hertfordshire and one of rose-grain aphid, *Metopolophium dirhodum*, in Somerset.

**Monitoring at risk crops is still advised until winter conditions take hold, which latest forecasts suggest could be as early as next week.**

## Further information

Please send information on crop aphids to: [mark-s.taylor@rothamsted.ac.uk](mailto:mark-s.taylor@rothamsted.ac.uk)

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