



Suction-trap network sites

APHID ALERT UPDATE

The temperature in January and February was close to average at all suction-trap sites, the greatest difference from average being at Starcross, where it was 1°C above. Thus the timing and early-season abundance of winged aphids are expected to be around average. Our forecasts assume a reasonably normal spring and we'll be keeping a careful eye if the forecast of a hot spring turns out to be true. Overwintering success of aphids within crops is also expected to have been average, but we are not monitoring that. It would be appreciated if you could tell us of any field observations.

- Four cereal aphids have been caught this year, all were bird cherry-oat aphids (*Rhopalosiphum padi*), two at Starcross (1 during 19-25/1 and 1 6-12/4) and two at Wye (1 during 2-8/3 and 1 6-12/4). This is not unusual and does not suggest need for action.
- The switch from weekly to daily trapping commenced on 13th April.
- The shallot aphid (*Myzus ascalonicus*) is the most numerous aphid species in our suction-trap samples to date.
- No other crop aphids have been caught so far this year.
- Yellow water-pan traps are not yet in operation.

We have a new suction-trap operating this year at FERA, York. This fills a critical gap left since the closure of the Askham Bryan trap in 2011.

Apologies to Hutchinsons for accidentally leaving their logo off our forecasting newsletter in early March.

After 36 years at Rothamsted, Richard Harrington will be retiring on 20th May. Thereafter, James Bell (james.bell@rothamsted.ac.uk) will take over leadership of the Rothamsted Insect Survey, and management responsibility for the Aphid Advisory Alerts project. Mark Taylor (mark-s.taylor@rothamsted.ac.uk) will be the prime author of these bulletins and, for now, should be the first port of call for queries relating to information therein.



Further information

www.hgca.com/pests

[Rothamsted Insect Survey](#)

www.potato.org.uk/online-toolbox/aphid-monitoring

[HDC pest bulletin](#)

Please send information on crop aphids to

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