

APHID ALERT UPDATE 4

GENERAL

Wet weather was apparent over much of the UK which has delayed harvesting of winter crops. Temperatures were normal for the time of year. The likely economic impact of aphids is low at present as numbers of most species rarely exceeded double figures, with the notable exception of the grain aphid (*Sitobion avenae*) at Elgin.

POTATOES

Peach-potato aphid (*Myzus persicae*) numbers have crashed and virus pressure remains low in all regions. In Scotland with potato crops at the end of their growing season, the risk of non-persistent potato virus transmission is exceptionally low. Cereal aphids leaving cereals may contribute to PVY vector pressure through August, but again numbers remain very 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*), the willow-carrot aphid (*Cavariella aegopodii*) and the currant-lettuce aphid (*Nasonovia ribisnigri*) are now very low or absent.

PEAS and BEANS

Harvesting of peas in most of England is now nearing completion. Numbers of the pea aphid (*Acyrtosiphon pisum*) and the black bean aphid (*Aphis fabae*) remain very low in the traps.

OILSEED RAPE

Harvesting of winter oilseed is now almost complete but spring rape is just starting. Aphids are no longer an issue in spring crops but the new season oilseed rape is now being drilled in some areas in the east and south with some early crops now emerging. Peach-potato aphid (*Myzus persicae*) is extremely low and therefore the risk to emerging crops is exceptionally low.

CEREALS

The winter barley harvest is now complete. Progress is being made with winter wheat (60%), spring barley (30%) and winter oats (55%), with wet weather hampering the harvest in many areas of the country. Cereal aphid numbers overall remain low for the time of year. It's too early to predict accurately what will happen in autumn but we shall be monitoring expected migrations of the bird cherry-oat aphid (*Rhopalosiphum padi*), grain aphid (*Sitobion avenae*) and rose-grain aphid (*Metopolophium dirhodum*) in due course.

Further information

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

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