

APHID ALERT UPDATE 5

GENERAL

This week's spell of drier weather will be welcomed by many growers harvesting. There is some aphid flight activity in Northern England and Scotland, but the likely economic impact of aphids is low at present.

OILSEED RAPE

Harvesting of winter oilseed is now finished and about 20% of spring rape has been completed. Drilling of the new season oilseed rape is largely complete in S & E England, but just beginning further north. Numbers of peach-potato aphid (*Myzus persicae*) are low and therefore the risk to emerging crops is also low at present.

CEREALS

The winter barley harvest is now complete. Progress is being made with winter wheat (70%), spring barley (50%) and winter oats (75%). Recent wet weather resulted in reduced rates of harvest in late August and early September, and the 2015 harvest progress is one of the latest in the last 10 years. Cereal aphid numbers overall remain low for the time of year. We shall be reporting in detail the autumn migrations of the bird cherry-oat aphid (*Rhopalosiphum padi*) and the grain aphid (*Sitobion avenae*) in due course.

PEAS and BEANS

Harvesting of peas in most of England is almost complete. The winter bean harvest is 50% complete with the spring bean harvest only just begun (5%). Numbers of the pea aphid (*Acyrtosiphon pisum*) and the black bean aphid (*Aphis fabae*) remain very low in the traps.

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.

POTATOES

Peach-potato aphid (*Myzus persicae*) numbers are very low and virus pressure remains low in all regions. The yellow water tray trapping has now largely stopped for 2015.

Further information

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

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