

APHID ALERT SUMMARY

GENERAL

Aphid flight activity and the threat of primary infections by aphid-borne viruses (BYDV and TuYV) have dropped still further due to the continued windy conditions. After a prolonged spell of exceptionally warm weather through early November, the mild weather is due to come to a shuddering halt this weekend.

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

Aphid flight into crops (primary infection)

Numbers of bird cherry–oat aphid and peach–potato aphid have dropped at all suction-trap sites and are now very low. If temperatures were to rise above 12°C for any length of time a few more may trickle in, but the flight period can be considered to be pretty much at an end.

Aphid movement within crops (secondary spread)

It is possible that seed treatments on early drilled cereal crops could now be running out of persistence, but colder conditions will greatly reduce aphid development and movement within crops. It's hard to be precise about the level of frost needed to deliver a knock-out blow, but three to five consecutive days with grass minima dropping below -6°C should cause high mortality. If it warms up again, spread of viruses might resume, but the worst should now be over.

OTHERS

At this time of year aphids are no longer an issue in most other crops.

As always, we appreciate any intelligence from the field and any comments on the information we provide.

SUCTION-TRAPPING RESULTS

Winter Cereal Aphids

Numbers of **female bird cherry–oat aphid**, *Rhopalosiphum padi*, flying this bulletin week have fallen everywhere. The table below shows the combined total of both forms of **female** bird cherry–oat aphids caught during the week **9/11 - 15/11** and compares them to last year and a ten year mean. The table also includes numbers accumulated from a start date (**5/10**) representing **earliest emergence** and thus gives an indication of the build-up of virus vector pressure.



- Numbers of bird cherry–oat aphid have decreased at all eleven suction-trap sites. Numbers are above the ten-year means for same time period at Preston and Starcross.
- A single grain aphid was caught at Starcross this week.
- The Rothamsted Tower trap is currently not operating due to accidental damage (NA=not available).

Suction-trap sites

The tables below show current totals with comparisons to previous years. '/' indicates that identifications have not been completed and '*' indicates where totals have been corrected proportionally to seven days, fewer days' samples having been identified.

<i>Sitobion avenae</i>				09/11-15/11	<i>Rhopalosiphum padi</i> - females only				
Compared to last week	2015	2014	2005-2014		Compared to last week	2015	2005-2014	2015 Acc from 05/10	05-14 Acc from 05/10
	*0	/	0	Newcastle	↓	*4	3	2460	226
	*0	/	/	York	↓	*0	/	1278	
	0	1	0	Preston	↓	21	13	7749	2303
	0	0	0	Kirton	↓	1	9	438	785
	0	0	0	Broom's Barn (Bury St Edmunds)	↓	1	5	436	508
↓	0	/	0	Wellesbourne	↓	0	2	385	593
↓	0	0	0	Hereford	↓	6	4	776	639
	NA	0	0	Rothamsted (Harpenden)		NA	2	Na	391
	0	1	0	Writtle	↓	2	7	555	694
↓	0	/	0	Silwood Park (nr Ascot)	↓	2	6	190	350
	0	/	0	Wye	↓	4	3	562	655
	1	/	0	Starcross (nr Exeter)	↓	15	8	779	394

Winter Oilseed Rape and Vegetable Brassica Aphids

The main aphid vector of TuYV is the **peach–potato aphid**, *Myzus persicae*, but it seldom reaches numbers high enough to cause direct feeding damage. Conversely the **mealy cabbage aphid**, *Brevicoryne brassicae*, is a poor vector of TuYV, but can cause direct feeding damage to isolated plants. This species is more of a problem in spring than in autumn.

- A single peach–potato aphid was caught at Broom’s Barn.
- No mealy cabbage aphids were caught in the suction-traps this week.

<i>Brevicoryne brassicae</i>				09/11-15/11	<i>Myzus persicae</i>			
Compared to last week	2015	2014	2005-2014		Compared to last week	2015	2014	2005-2014
	0	/	0	Newcastle		0	/	0
	0	/	/	York		0	/	/
	0	0	0	Preston		0	3	1
	0	0	1	Kirton	↓	0	7	3
	0	0	0	Broom’s Barn (Bury St Edmunds)	↑	1	3	2
	0	/	0	Wellesbourne		0	/	0
	0	0	0	Hereford	↓	0	0	1
	NA	0	0	Rothamsted (Harpenden)		NA	2	1
	0	0	0	Writtle	↓	0	2	1
	0	/	0	Silwood Park (nr Ascot)		0	/	0
	0	/	0	Wye	↓	0	/	0
	0	/	0	Starcross (nr Exeter)	↓	0	/	0

Further information

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

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