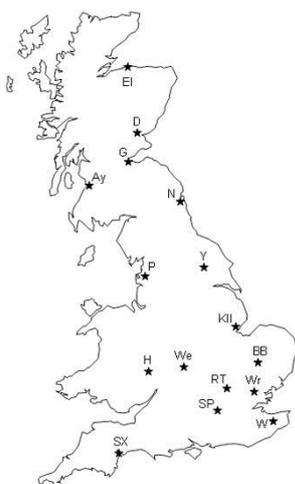


APHID ALERT UPDATE

Suction-trapping period 1st January - 27th March 2016

SUCTION-TRAPPING



Suction-trap sites

The temperature in January and February 2016 was higher than the long-term average throughout much of England by 1 to 1.5°C, leading to expected first aphid flights of two to three weeks earlier than average. The temperatures in Scotland were much nearer to the long-term averages. However, December 2015 was a record breaking 4°C plus above the long-term average. The warmest December since 1934 and the highest monthly anomaly for any calendar month since 1910. These December figures are way outside our experience and we await with interest just how early this year's first flights turn out to be. **The general message is that aphids will be flying considerably earlier than normal.**

- The switch from weekly to daily suction-trapping commenced on 7th March, before that catches were weekly.
- Small numbers of a range of aphids continued to fly in January as a late extension of the 2015 autumn flight.
- Since February, we have caught a further seven cereal aphids: four bird cherry–oat aphids (*Rhopalosiphum padi*) (2 Starcross 1-7/2 & 17/3, 1 Wellesbourne 12/3 and 1 Broom's Barn 25/3) and three rose-grain aphids (*Metopolophium dirhodum*) (1 Writtle 25/3 & 2 Starcross 22-28/2 & 21/3)
- A single peach–potato aphid (*Myzus persicae*) was caught at Wellesbourne during the week 22-28 February.
- Another very early appearance of a crop aphid is the capture of four willow-carrot aphids (*Cavariella aegopodii*) (1 Wellesbourne 1st -7th February, 2 at Kirton 17/3 and 25/3 and 1 Broom's Barn 22/3).
- The shallot aphid (*Myzus ascalonicus*) is the most numerous aphid species in our suction-trap samples to date and has been caught at Starcross, Devon all the way up to York.
- Yellow water-pan traps are not yet in operation.

Field reports suggest overwintering success of aphids within crops has been exceptional this winter, especially in southern and western England. However, there have been no reports of BYDV in winter wheat so far, but some patches are now evident in winter barley, especially in the western England. The cut-off point for sprays against BYDV is thought to be GS31, after which no further economic benefit accrues.

Monitoring at risk emerging spring barley and spring oilseed rape crops is advised.

This year, for the first time, we will be adding the black bean aphid (*Aphis fabae*) data to our weekly Aphid Alerts and the website graphs as and when they start flying.

Further information

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

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