AHDB Aphid News

Trap period 30 March – 05 April 2020

General

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic; the Rothamsted Insect Survey is at this time operating at reduced capacity. The team will process as many samples as possible to produce weekly results, but substantial disruption to the normal reporting service is expected. Most of the suction-trap network is currently operating on a weekly trapping regime with several sites unable to send samples.

Despite this winter being the 5th wettest on record and Britain experiencing several Atlantic storms, the air temperature has been notably mild on the whole. This has pushed average January-February air temperatures to around 0.5 ^{o}C – 1.5 ^{o}C in Scotland and Northern England above the 30-year average temperature and to around 2 ^{o}C from Kirton southwards, with Silwood reaching 2.5 ^{o}C. This suggests that the first flight may be between 1-3 weeks early in Northern Britain and 4 weeks early towards the south, with Silwood potentially being 5 weeks early. **The general message is that, aphids will be flying around 1-3 week earlier in Scotland and Northern England to around 4 weeks earlier over much of England from the Wash southwards than they would be expected to historically.**

The sudden upturn in air temperature during this reporting period along with an increase in Bird cherry-oat aphid being recorded as prompted the beginning of this year's aphid reporting.

There have been field reports of low numbers of winged Bird cherry-oat aphid on crops as well as the first reports of BYDV in winter barley in Cornwall as well as suspected cases in East Anglia. There have also been reports of wingless (apterous) peach-potato aphids from OSR. Reports suggest that late sown winter cereals are still at a susceptible growth stage. Overwintering success of aphids and the secondary spread of BYDV is thought to be more common than it was last season. This may be particularly true for areas where were a green bridge for aphids persisted from the autumn of last year. The cut-off point for sprays against BYDV is thought to be GS31, after which no further economic benefit accrues. The late sowing of spring cereals this year could cause an issue where winged (alate) cereal aphid colonies may mature on winter crops in time to fly to spring crops that are newly emerged and hence cause greater damage. Multiple crop protection experts have said that there is some evidence that applying control measures earlier and not later (when natural enemies are more abundant) to spring cereals may be of some benefit, if crop inspections warrant such a measure.

Monitoring at risk cereal and oilseed rape crops is advised.

Suction-trap data

'*' indicates where totals have been corrected proportionally to seven days, fewer days' samples having been processed, "#" indicates the first occurrence of this aphid species this year and **0 = none so far this year.**

Red text indicates an increase (↑) and blue text indicates a decrease (↓) in aphid numbers compared to last week. "/" indicates that we have no data from this trap.

Only tables for species reported upon that have been recorded so far this year are displayed.

Rose-grain aphid *(Metopolophium dirhodum)*	**Bulletin Week Totals**		**30/04-05/04**	**Accumulated until**		**05/04**
	2020	2019	10-year average 2010-19	2020	2019	10-year average 2010-19
Dundee	/	0	0	0	0	0
Gogarbank (Edinburgh)	/	0	0	0	0	0
Newcastle	/	0	0	0	0	0
York	/	0		0	0	
Preston	/	0	0	0	0	0
Kirton	/	0	0	0	0	0
Broom's Barn (Bury St Edmunds)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wellesbourne	/	0	0	0	0	0
Hereford	/	0	0	0	0	0
Rothamsted (Harpenden)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Writtle	/	0	0	0	1	1
Silwood Park (nr Ascot)	/	0	0	0	0	1
East Malling	0			0		
Starcross (nr Exeter)	1 #	0	0	1	0	1

Bird cherry-oat aphid *(Rhopalosiphum padi)*	**Bulletin Week Totals**		**30/04-05/04**	**Accumulated until**		**05/04**
	2020	2019	10-year average 2010-19	2020	2019	10-year average 2010-19
Dundee	/	0	0	0	0	0
Gogarbank (Edinburgh)	/	0	0	0	1	0
Newcastle	/	0	0	0	0	0
York	/	0		0	0	
Preston	/	0	0	0	0	0
Kirton	/	0	0	0	0	0
Broom's Barn (Bury St Edmunds)	0	0	0	1	0	0
Wellesbourne	/	0	0	0	0	1
Hereford	/	1	0	0	2	1
Rothamsted (Harpenden)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Writtle	/	0	0	0	0	1
Silwood Park (nr Ascot)	/	0	0	0	0	1
East Malling	6 #			6		
Starcross (nr Exeter)	4 #	0	0	4	0	3

Grain aphid *(Sitobion avenae)*	**Bulletin Week Totals**		**30/04-05/04**	**Accumulated until**		**05/04**
	2020	2019	10-year average 2010-19	2020	2019	10-year average 2010-19
Dundee	/	0	0	0	0	0
Gogarbank (Edinburgh)	/	0	0	0	0	0
Newcastle	/	0	0	0	0	0
York	/	0		0	0	
Preston	/	0	0	0	0	0
Kirton	/	0	0	0	0	0
Broom's Barn (Bury St Edmunds)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wellesbourne	/	0	0	0	0	0
Hereford	/	0	0	0	0	0
Rothamsted (Harpenden)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Writtle	/	0	0	0	0	0
Silwood Park (nr Ascot)	/	0	0	1	0	0
East Malling	0			0		
Starcross (nr Exeter)	0	0	0	0	0	1

Potato aphid *(Macrosiphum euphorbiae)*	**Bulletin Week Totals**		**30/04-05/04**	**Accumulated until**		**05/04**
	2020	2019	10-year average 2010-19	2020	2019	10-year average 2010-19
Dundee	/	0	0	0	0	0
Gogarbank (Edinburgh)	/	0	0	0	0	0
Newcastle	/	0	0	0	0	0
York	/	0		0	0	
Preston	/	0	0	0	0	0
Kirton	/	0	0	0	0	0
Broom's Barn (Bury St Edmunds)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wellesbourne	/	0	0	0	0	0
Hereford	/	0	0	0	0	0
Rothamsted (Harpenden)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Writtle	/	0	0	0	0	0
Silwood Park (nr Ascot)	/	0	0	0	0	0
East Malling	0			0		
Starcross (nr Exeter)	1	0	0	2	0	0

Further information

Please send information on crop aphids to: alex.greenslade@rothamsted.ac.uk

insectsurvey.com/aphid-bulletin

ahdb.org.uk/aphid-news

In partnership with

AHDB
Stoneleigh Park
Kenilworth
Warwickshire
CV8 2TL

T 024 7 669 2051
E info@ahdb.org.uk
W ahdb.org.uk
@TheAHDB

