

POLLEN BEETLES

9th July 2019 Pollen beetle forecast

Predicted dates of the start of the migration of newly-emerged pollen beetle adults from oil seed rape fields to feeding sites – such as broccoli and cauliflower crops – are shown below. The risk of infestation is obviously higher if horticultural crops are close to fields of oil seed rape. Pollen beetles are particularly active when the weather is warm and humid.

Region	Estimated start of pollen beetle migration from oil seed rape crops
Cornwall (Newquay)	26 June
Kent (Sittingbourne)	1 July
Suffolk (Woodbridge)	5 July
Wellesbourne (Warwick)	27 June
Norfolk (Norwich)	8 July
South Lincolnshire (Boston)	29 June
Nottingham (Bilsthorpe)	8 July
Lancashire (Ormskirk)	3 July
York (Market Weighton)	11 July
Scotland (Blairgowrie)	16 July

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Counts of beetles captured in 3 yellow water traps at Wellesbourne are shown below. We first set up the traps in some overwintered swedes but the traps are now in a plot sown this spring.

Captures of pollen beetle in yellow water traps at Wellesbourne 2019.

Date	Total in 3 traps near overwintered swedes. Set up 26th February.
5 March	43
12 March	0
19 March	6
26 March	862
2 April	894
9 April	88
16 April	104
23 April	149
26 April	18
30 April	136
3 May	247/89 (old swedes/new swedes)
7 May	189/24 (old swedes/new swedes)
10 May	133/27 (old swedes/new swedes)
14 May	183/348 (old swedes/new swedes)
17 May	88/357 (old swedes/new swedes)
21 May	41/101 (old swedes/new swedes)
24 May	209 (new swedes only from now onwards)
28 May	88
31 May	74
4 June	339



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Captures of pollen beetle in yellow water traps at Wellesbourne 2019.

Date	Total in 3 traps near overwintered swedes. Set up 26th February.
7 th June	242
11 th June	254
14 th June	136
18 th June	418
21 st June	3650
25 th June	10,500
28 th June	4,300
2 nd July	5,200
5 th July	2,550
9 th July	3,900



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Captures of pollen beetle in yellow water traps at Wellesbourne 2018

Date	Total in 3 traps near overwintered swedes. Set up 20th March.	Date	Total in 3 traps near overwintered swedes. Set up 20th March.
27 March	183	19 July	143
3 April	10	24 July	110
10 April	1375	27 July	52
17 April	1224	31 July	29
24 April	321	4 August	16
27 April	9	7 August	25
1 May	1	10 August	24
4 May	133	14 August	5
8 May	181	17 August	7
11 May	29	21 August	15
15 May	133	24 August	6
18 May	32	28 August	0
22 May	131	31 August	8
25 May	11	4 September	10
29 May	64	7 September	6
1 June	144	11 September	10
5 June	146	14 September	9
8 June	53	18 September	19
12 June	54	21 September	6
15 June	608	25 September	10
19 June	797	28 September	6
22 June	Approx 7,000	2 October	3
26 June	Approx 12,000	9 October	6
29 June	1381	16 October	2
3 July	1638	23 October	20
6 July	1194	30 October	0
10 July	1007		
13 July	704		
17 July	418		

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Background

Adult pollen beetles (*Brassicogethes* spp.) are occasional pests of cauliflower and broccoli. The adult beetles feed on the curds or florets causing physical damage. This type of damage usually occurs in mid-summer when new adults emerge from oil seed rape crops and move into other areas to feed. They are also often found in flowers at this time. These new adults feed for a period of time and then seek hibernation sites, for example in leaf litter at the base of hedges. They overwinter as adults and emerge from hibernation in spring, when they can again be seen feeding on flowers such as dandelions. They then move to suitable host plants such as oil seed rape to lay eggs. Once hatched, the larvae feed on flower buds and then drop to the soil to pupate, from which the new generation of adults emerges. The image shows adult pollen beetles and feeding damage on a cauliflower curd.

