In partnership with AHDB HORTICULTURE THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK ROTHAMSTED RESEARCH

Bean seed fly – 29th October 2019

Bean seed flies overwinter as pupae in the soil. In early spring (March-April), flies start to emerge and after feeding and mating, the female lays her eggs just below the soil surface, generally singly. Females may lay as many as 40 eggs in a day. There is generally a period of several days before a further batch of eggs is laid. In the absence of a suitable host plant, the larva is able to complete development by feeding on decomposing organic matter. The larvae pupate in the soil at varying depths. The rate of development, and therefore the number of generations, depends on the ambient temperature. Bean seed flies can complete between 3 and 6 generations during the year according to the climate. Females prefer to lay eggs in freshly disturbed soil, especially where there are residues of vegetable matter or where large amounts of farmyard manure have been applied. The presence of plants is not required for bean seed flies to lay eggs. Crops affected include: onion, bean, cucurbits, spinach, Brassica, radish, beet, asparagus and sweetcorn.

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A bean seed fly forecast has not been developed but the numbers captured in water traps at Wellesbourne are recorded below. We first set up the traps in some overwintered swedes but the traps are now in a plot sown this spring.

Trap captures at Wellesbourne 2019. Traps were set up on 26th February.

Date	Total in 3 traps near overwintered swedes
5th March	6
12th March	8
19th March	26
26th March	33
2nd April	24
9th April	305
16th April	116
23rd April	23
26th April	74
30th April	129
3rd May	34/32 (old swedes/new swedes)
7th May	34/47
10th May	38/38
14th May	29/74
17th May	7/17
21st May	2/18
24th May	32 (new swedes only from now onwards)
28th May	24
31st May	26
4th June	17

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Trap captures at Wellesbourne 2019. Traps were set up on 26th February.

Date	Total in 3 traps near overwintered swedes
7th June	37
11th June	70
14th June	70
18th June	97
21st June	25
25th June	9
28th June	30
2nd July	8
5th July	10
9th July	29
12th July	50
15th July	75
19th July	34
23rd July	83
26th July	61
30th July	72
2nd August	71
6th August	23
9th August	23
13th August	48
16th August	44
20th August	63
23rd August	26
27th August	15
30th August	14

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Trap captures at Wellesbourne 2019. Traps were set up on 26th February.

Date	Total in 3 traps near overwintered swedes
3rd September	26
6th September	25
10th September	50
13th September	35
17th September	44
20th September	47
24th September	55
27th September	80
1st October	121
4th October	36
7th October	99
11th October	48
15th October	54
18th October	34
22nd October	29
25th October	21
29th October	49

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New for 2019 - bean seed fly monitoring scheme coordinated by PGRO

The Horticulture Strategic Centres for Field Vegetables programme, funded by AHDB with co-funding from NIAB, ADAS, PGRO and Duchy College, seeks to provide, with the help of growers, information about the distribution of the bean seed fly (*Delia platura*) across the UK in all affected crops.

To help map the distribution of bean seed fly, a section has been developed within the PGRO App in which growers and agronomists can record the incidence of bean seed fly larvae in any crop. The PGRO App is available from Apple and Google Stores – search for PGRO Pea and Bean Guide.

The link to the bean seed fly recording page is shown on the opening page of the app, so click on bean seed fly and select the crop type that you're growing or working with. If the crop is not a legume crop, select 'other crops'. As you follow the links you will reach the page where you can create a report, and here you can enter the farm name, field name and any additional notes you have about crop type, level of infestation or damage. You can add photos to the report, and it will geolocate you if you're able to provide the report from in-field, or you can add a postcode if you're reporting the pest from your office. The data will be used only for the purposes of the project and the report will be visible at http://pgroapp.org/. No personal data will be published.

A summary of the information obtained will be included in this Bulletin as the season progresses.

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Trap captures at Wellesbourne 2018. Traps were set up on 20 March.

Date	Total in 3 traps near overwintered swedes	Date	Total in 3 traps near overwintered swedes
27 March	11	19 July	7
3 April	31	24 July	31
10 April	22	27 July	12
17 April	33	31 July	30
24 April	39	3 August	23
27 April	153	7 August	16
1 May	198	10 August	16
4 May	122	14 August	36
8 May	17	17 August	45
11 May	59	21 August	13
15 May	26	24 August	24
18 May	7	28 August	70
22 May	6	31 August	54
25 May	16	4 September	31
29 May	4	7 September	30
1 June	13	11 September	59
5 June	8	14 September	35
8 June	8	18 September	46
12 June	8	21 September	104
15 June	6	25 September	166
19 June	28	28 September	17
22 June	17	2 October	31
26 June	15	9 October	52
29 June	23	16 October	175
3 July	14	23 October	27
6 July	16	30 October	62
10 July	19		
13 July	19		
17 July	13		