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POLLEN BEETLES – 10 September 2020

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Introduction

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.



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 – will be provided from late May onwards. 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. Adult pollen beetles will continue to feed for a period of time and then seek hibernation sites, for example in leaf litter at the base of hedges.



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Pollen beetle forecast

The pollen beetle forecast below indicates the predicted dates of the migration of newly-emerged pollen beetle adults from oil seed rape fields to feeding sites – such as broccoli and cauliflower crops.

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	Estimated mid-point of pollen beetle migration from oil seed rape crops
Cornwall (Newquay)	27 June	9 July
Kent (Sittingbourne)	1 July	11 July
Suffolk (Woodbridge)	26 June	7 July
Wellesbourne (Warwick)	18 June	29 June
Norfolk (Norwich)	3 July	12 July
South Lincolnshire (Boston)	24 June	3 July
Nottingham (Bilsthorpe)	5 July	15 July
Lancashire (Ormskirk)	7 July	21 July
York (Market Weighton)	7 July	18 July
Scotland (Blairgowrie)	26 July	2 August



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Monitoring data 2020

We first set up the traps in some overwintered swedes at Wellesbourne but because of COVID-19 the traps were moved to the village allotments and in a garden at Tysoe in south Warwickshire. They are now back at Wellesbourne (from 19th May).

Date	Total in 3 traps near overwintered swedes at Wellesbourne	Total in 3 traps in Tysoe Allotments, Warwickshire set up 25 th March	Total in traps in garden in Tysoe, Warwickshire set up 28 th March
7 th -14 th Jan	0		
21 st Jan	0		
28 th Jan	0		
4 th Feb	0		
11 th Feb	0		
18 th Feb	0		
25 th Feb	0		
3 rd Mar	0		
10 th Mar	10		
17 th Mar	74		
26 th Mar	-	4	
27 th Mar	-	2	
28 th Mar	-	0	
29 th Mar	-	0	1 (5 traps)
30 th Mar	-	0	1 (6 traps)
31 st Mar	-	0	0 (6 traps)
1 st Apr	-	0	0 (6 traps)
2 nd Apr	-	0	0 (6 traps)



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Date	Total in 3 traps near overwintered swedes at Wellesbourne	Total in 3 traps in Tysoe Allotments, Warwickshire set up 25 th March	Total in traps in garden in Tysoe, Warwickshire set up 28 th March (6 traps)
03-Apr	-	7	27
04-Apr	-	15	86
05-Apr	-	33	204
06-Apr	-	30	122
07-Apr	-	79	532
08-Apr	-	118	19
9-Apr	-	43	18
10-Apr	-	21	96
11-Apr	-	12	18
12-Apr	-	1	3
13-Apr	-	1	0
14-Apr	-	2	0
15-Apr	-	9	1
16-Apr	-	4	9
17-Apr	-	0	0
18-Apr	-	0	0
19-Apr	-	1	1
20-Apr	-	1	1
21-Apr	-	1	5
22-Apr	-	2	0
23-Apr	-	35	0



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Date	Total in 3 traps near overwintered swedes at Wellesbourne	Total in 3 traps in Tysoe Allotments, Warwickshire set up 25 th March	Total in traps in garden in Tysoe, Warwickshire set up 28 th March (6 traps)
24-Apr	-	39	0
25-Apr	-	21	6
26-Apr	-	3	0
27-Apr	-	1	0
28-Apr	-	0	0
29-Apr	-	0	0
30-Apr	-	0	0
1-May	-	0	0
2-May	-	0	0
3-May	-	1	0
4-May	-	2	0
5-May	-	0	0
6-May	-	0	0
7-May	-	0	0
8-9 May	-	0	0
10-11 May	-	0	0
12 May	-	0	0
13 May	-	0	0

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Date	Total in 3 traps in swede plot at Wellesbourne	Total in 3 traps in Tysoe Allotments, Warwickshire set up 25 th March	Total in traps in garden in Tysoe, Warwickshire set up 28 th March (6 traps)
14 May	-	0	0
15 May	-	0	0
16 May	-	0	0
17 May	-	0	0
18 May	-	0	0
19 May	Traps set up at Wellesbourne	0	0
20 May	-	0	0
21 May	-	0	0
22 May	1346	-	-
26 May	1845	-	-
29 May	1273	-	-
2 June	624	-	-
5 June	257	-	-
9 June	900	-	-
12 June	1370	-	-
16 June	1119	-	-
19 June	405	-	-
23 June	601	-	-
26 June	536	-	-
30 June	265	-	-
3 July	614	-	-
7 July	564	-	-



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Date	Total in 3 traps in swede plot at Wellesbourne
10 July	274
14 July	612
17 July	226
21 July	212
24 July	152
28 July	100
31 July	168
4 August	166
7 August	64
11 August	78
14 August	47
18 August	67
21 August	13
25 August	27
28 August	10
1 September	13
4 September	5
8 September	2



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Historical information from 2019

Counts of beetles captured in 3 yellow water traps at Wellesbourne in 2019 are shown below.

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	3,650
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
12 th July	713
16 th July	618
19 th July	293
23 rd July	444
26 th July	453
30 th July	320
2 nd August	267
6 th August	165
9 th August	99
13 th August	84
16 th August	44
20 th August	33
23 rd August	26
27 th August	9



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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.
30 th August	3
3 rd September	6
6 th September	6
10 th September	7
13 th September	3
17 th September	6
20 th September	0
24 th September	2
27 th September	0
1 st October	5
4 th October	1
8 th October	1
11 th October	0
15 th October	1
18 th October	3
22 nd October	1
25 th October	6
29 th October	2