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POLLEN BEETLES 14 October 2021

Page	Contents
2	Introduction
3	Pollen beetle forecast
4	Monitoring data 2021
7	Historical information from 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 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. This usually happens towards the end of June.

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)	13 July
Kent (Canterbury)	15 July
Suffolk (Woodbridge)	6 July
Wellesbourne (Warwick)	5 July
Norfolk (Norwich)	11 July
South Lincolnshire (Boston)	8 July
Nottingham (Bilsthorpe)	17 July
Lancashire (Ormskirk)	18 July
York (Market Weighton)	15 July
Scotland (Blairgowrie)	2 August



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Monitoring data 2021

This is based on captures made by 3 yellow water traps near a swede plot at Wellesbourne, Warwickshire.

Date - 2021	Total in 3 traps near swedes at Wellesbourne
16 Feb	0
23 Feb	1
2 Mar	9
9 Mar	0
16 Mar	3
23 Mar	110
30 Mar	382
5 Apr	463
13 Apr	24
16 Apr	159
20 Apr	186
23 Apr	92
27 Apr	109
30 Apr	56
4 May	187
7 May	84
11 May	357
14 May	139
18 May	96
21 May	89
25 May	38
28 May	358
1 June	414
4 June	287
8 June	526
11 June	195
15 June	461



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Monitoring data 2021

This is based on captures made by 3 yellow water traps near a swede plot at Wellesbourne, Warwickshire.

Date - 2021	Total in 3 traps near swedes at Wellesbourne
18 June	264
22 June	237
25 June	411
29 June	767
2 July	1809
6 July	741
9 July	537
13 July	448
16 July	272
20 July	108
23 July	171
27 July	44
30 July	101
3 August	190
6 August	100
10 August	132
13 August	104
17 August	36
20 August	30
24 August	26
27 August	10
31 August	10
3 September	4
7 September	4
10 September	1
14 September	3
17 September	3
21 September	3



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Monitoring data 2021

This is based on captures made by 3 yellow water traps near a swede plot at Wellesbourne, Warwickshire.

Date - 2021	Total in 3 traps near swedes at Wellesbourne
24 September	1
28 September	0
1 October	0
5 October	1
8 October	0
12 October	0



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Historical information from 2020

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 (Canterbury)	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
11 September	10
15 September	3
18 September	1
22 September	4
25 September	0
29 September	0
2 October	1



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Date	Total in 3 traps in swede plot at Wellesbourne
6 October	0
9 October	0
13 October	0
16 October	1
20 October	0
23 October	0
26 October	0
30 October	0
3 November	0