

Pollen beetle control in oilseed rape

Build the yield - March 2008



BISCAYA[®]

Key points

- Anticipate adult pollen beetle activity from early March to late May
- Highest risk of crop damage is green to yellow bud stages
- Adult beetles bite into buds and lay eggs which hatch in 7 to 10 days
- Larval feeding reduces bud numbers so fewer pods are set
- In worst cases stalks can be left pod-less causing significant yield loss
- Treat as soon as thresholds reached and follow IRAG guidelines



Control thresholds

Control beetles as soon as threshold reached during green to yellow bud stage:

Thresholds (beetles per plant)		
Forward winter crops	Backward winter crops	Spring drilled crops
15	5	3

Best use

- Apply Biscaya at 0.3 L/ha in 200 to 400 L/ha of water
- Maximum one treatment per crop
- No LERAP means all your crop is protected
- If tank-mixing with a fungicide, use only ONE of the recommended partners; Proline, Prosaro or approved formulations of azoxystrobin or boscalid
- Used as recommended Biscaya is not hazardous to bees, but if crops are flowering always follow BBKA* guidelines; spray in early morning or evening when fewer bees are foraging and avoid drift on to hives
- Shake container well before use to mix the Oil Dispersion (O-TEQ) formulation

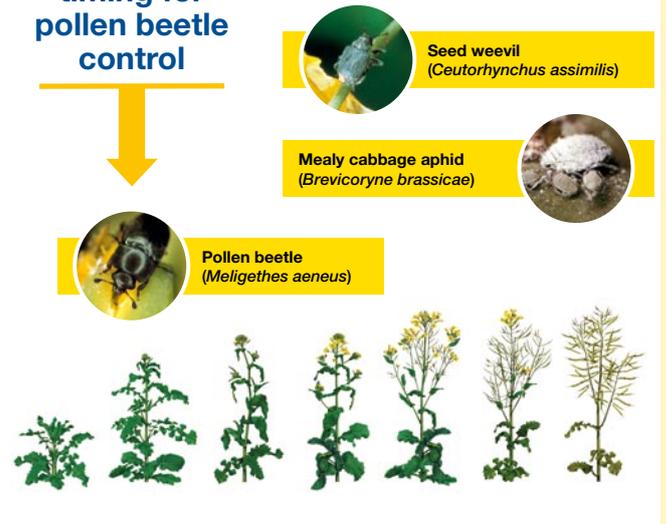


*BBKA = British Bee Keepers Association.

Timing

Biscaya also brings activity against Mealy cabbage aphid and Seed weevil, but these pests tend to infest crops later than pollen beetle. Don't delay to catch all three pests with Biscaya as once pollen beetles have reached threshold the crop will start to suffer economic damage.

Application timing for pollen beetle control



Seed weevil
(*Ceutorhynchus assimilis*)

Mealy cabbage aphid
(*Brevicoryne brassicae*)

Pollen beetle
(*Meligethes aeneus*)

For more information please call Bayer Assist on 0845 6092266 or visit www.bayercropscience.co.uk



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Pollen beetle resistance survey

Bayer CropScience has been monitoring the development of pyrethroid resistance across Europe to help growers maintain effective control of pollen beetle.

When the first case was identified in Germany in 2002 around 5% of the winter oilseed rape area was affected by reduced pyrethroid susceptibility in pollen beetles. In 2006 this had risen to 50%, costing growers an estimated €25M.

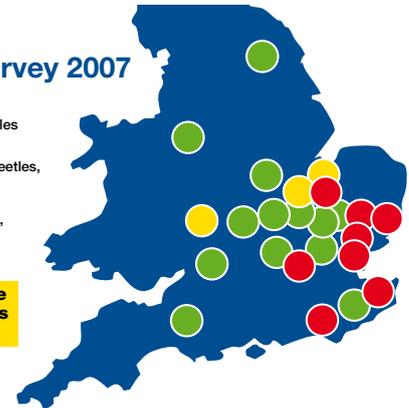
The first case found in the UK was in Kent in 2006 and in 2007 it spread to affect most of East Anglia and the South East of the country. Control strategies in 2007 should therefore be based on the agronomic advice from IRAG to combat pyrethroid resistance.

Pollen Beetle Resistance Survey 2007

- No resistant pollen beetles
- Some resistant pollen beetles, none highly resistant
- Resistant pollen beetles, some highly resistant

pyrethroid resistance found at 40% of sites surveyed in 2007

Bayer CropScience 2007 survey in conjunction with independent collaborators



Combating insecticide resistance

In light of these risks, the UK Insecticide Resistance Action Group (IRAG) has developed advice based on restricting use of pyrethroids, and alternating pyrethroids with other insecticide groups still unaffected by resistance. At present, the only non-pyrethroid approved for pollen beetle control in the UK is thiacloprid (Biscaya) – a neonicotinoid insecticide.

Agronomic advice from IRAG

- Inspect crops in the headland and midfield
- Spray only where beetle numbers exceed the appropriate current threshold.

If treatment is necessary:

- Do NOT use more than 1 pyrethroid spray post green bud
- Do NOT use more than 1 neonicotinoid spray (Biscaya)
- Consider Biscaya in high resistance risk areas (currently coastal southern and eastern Britain)
- Use Biscaya if above threshold numbers of beetles survive a pyrethroid treatment
- Seed weevil rarely needs treatment
- For aphids use a suitable aphicide depending on other pests present; consult agronomist

This agronomic advice from IRAG is reproduced courtesy of HGCA from their pollen beetle information sheet winter 2007. Further information can be found at: www.hgca.com or www.irac-online.org

THE ULTIMATE RESISTANCE FIGHTER



- Controls even the most resistant pollen beetles
- Rapid knock down
- Excellent Persistence
- Advanced O-TEQ Formulation
- The ICM Insecticide



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