



Pollen Beetle

FACTSHEET

Insects causing damage in oilseed rape

An adult pollen beetle is approximately 2,5 mm, with metallic greenish-black colour. Females bite oilseed rape buds and lay their eggs inside. Adults and larvae attack buds and flowers, resulting in withered buds and reduced pod set. However, damage rarely results in reduced yields for winter crops. Spring crops are more vulnerable, as the susceptible green/yellow bud stage often coincides with beetle migration. The model runs March-April.



Control with help of DSS on platform.ipmdecisions.net

Oilseed rape is only vulnerable if large numbers of pollen beetle migrate into the crop during green bud stage. This DSS predicts migration into crops based on air temperature, and so can be used to evaluate risk to crop. Only crops at growth stage 51 – 59 are vulnerable to damage, the period shortly before flowering:



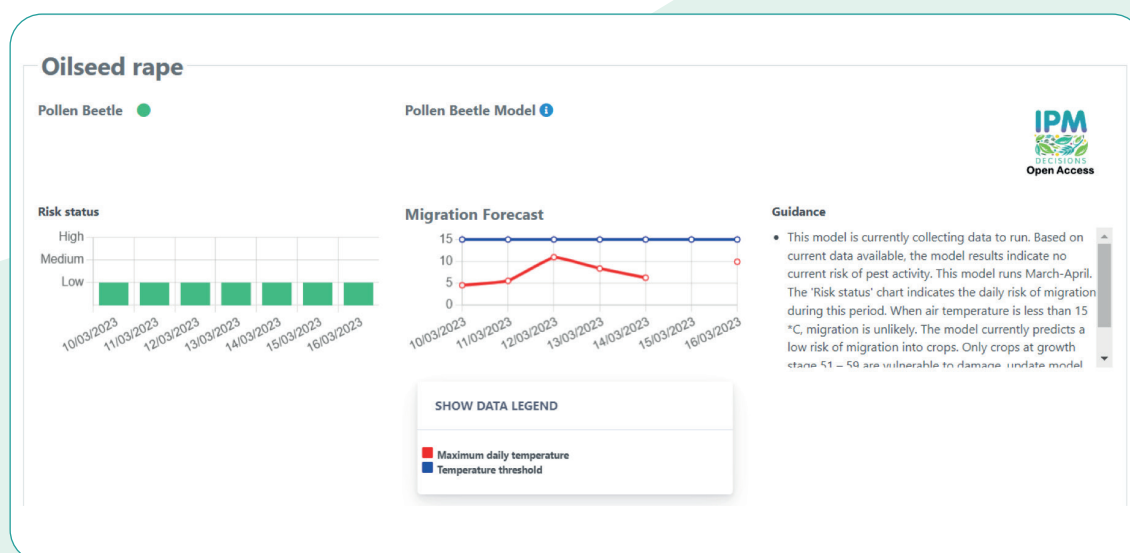
GS51: Flower buds visible from above ('green bud' stage)
 GS52: Flower buds free and level with the youngest leaves
 GS53: Flower buds raised above the youngest leaves
 GS55: Individual flower buds (main inflorescence) visible but closed
 GS57: Individual flower buds (secondary inflorescences) visible but closed
 GS59: Flower buds closed with first petals visible ('yellow bud' stage)

DSS parameters

The model uses Daily maximum air temperature. Only crops at growth stage 51 – 59 are vulnerable to damage, it is important to update growth stage in the DSS to indicate current crop growth stage.

DSS output

The 'Risk status' chart indicates the daily risk of migration during this period. When air temperature is greater than 15°C, migration is likely. Red warning indicates that the maximum temperature is higher than threshold at which pollen beetles fly at air temperatures to crops.



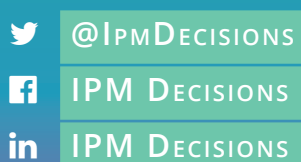
Where can DSS be used

This DSS was adapted from work carried out in the UK, and is considered applicable, but not yet validated in, Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands, France, Germany, Rep. Ireland, and Denmark.

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