

PESTS THREATENING CROPS IN EUROPE

In support of their efforts to produce safe, high-quality food for 500 million EU consumers and an important export market, farmers depend on access to pesticides to protect crops from pests and diseases. Failure to protect crops from pests threatens farm productivity, competitiveness, and the resource-efficiency that underpins sustainable agricultural production. The pictures and descriptions below introduce just some of the myriad pest challenges faced by farmers in Europe.



Cabbage Stem Flea Beetle

Found across Europe and responsible for widespread damage, Cabbage Stem Flea Beetle (CSFB) feed on emerging oilseed rape plants. Applications of foliar insecticides offer some level of control, but the development of CSFB resistance to several important products – with no, or limited alternatives – is a growing cause for concern.



Stripped Flea Beetle

Sweden, Finland and other countries that cultivate large areas of spring oilseed rape are hardest hit by this pest. The stripped flea beetle is typically found in spring brassicas. Larvae hatch and feed on the stem through late spring and summer, a new generation of adults emerging in early autumn.



Cabbage Root Fly

With up to four generations per season, this voracious pest is a particular problem for farmers in Germany. Larvae feed on the roots of oilseed rape plants causing severe damage and death. The loss of seed treatments is particularly devastating as post-emergence use of pyrethroids is ineffective.



Peach Potato Aphid

A prevalent pest of oilseed rape and the main vector of Turnip Yellows Virus (TuYV), responsible for an average 15% oilseed rape yield-loss in the UK.



Wireworms

Living for an astonishing 3-5 years in the soil, wireworms – larvae of the click beetle – feed on the germinating seeds and roots of cereal crops. Heavy wireworm infestations can see cereal crop losses of 0.5 t/ha.