

Diamondback Moth a growers perspective of the problem from around the UK



- **Diamondback moth is a small pest with a big reputation**
- **The 2016 season was the most challenging season for a UK brassica grower for many a year**

What are our customer expectations?

Products supplied be consistent in size and quality



Is Diamondback moth becoming a regular pest?

- **Historically DBM has been considered a sporadic pest**
- **Brassica growers now class it as a regular pest similar to aphids**
- **Brassica growers have recorded DBM on their crops every year for at least the previous 5 seasons**
- **Everyone of those previous 5 years growers have experienced levels of DBM in their crops that have required control methods**
- **Brassica growers have observed longer periods of DBM activity, 2016 being the longest period for several seasons**

What makes DBM a difficult pest to control?

- **Brassica growing is often undertaken on large units in certain areas within the UK creating hotspot opportunities for DBM to breed and feed**
- **DBM has a rapid life cycle & produces multiple generations**
- **Use of pyrethroids can actually make the situation worse by killing beneficial predators**
- **DBM has shown resistance to pyrethroids**
- **In seasons with high DBM activity it is easy for growers to reach the maximum number of permitted applications for products**
- **Lack of active ingredients/products for some crops**

Crop covers, are they a help or a hindrance?

- Fleece covers on early swede can be great protection
- Rips caused by weather or wildlife create problems
- Cabbage root fly covers offer no protection
- Lack of beneficial predators under covers



What are the consequences identified with DBM

- **Loss of product quality due to physical damage resulting in products not meeting customer specifications**
- **Loss of product size due to leaf damage inhibiting the plants ability to photosynthesise and grow**



Which crops did growers have the most issues with?

- **Brussels Sprouts**
- **(up to 100% affected & up to 40% losses)**
- **Swede**
- **(up to 100% affected & up to 15% losses)**
- **Cabbage**
- **(up to 80% affected & up to 10% losses)**



What can help growers in the future?

- **Verimark and Benevia will be game changers (but not all crops covered, kale, collards & swede)**
- **Tracer & Steward helpful for swede**
- **Increases in total permissible applications**
- **Greater number of active ingredients to reduce the speed of resistance**
- **Improved and cost effective bio controls**