

Help us safeguard the efficacy of insecticides

As part of a UK [aphid-monitoring programme](#), Rothamsted Research needs aphid samples, especially those that unexpectedly survive treatment with insecticides. Although any aphid species can be submitted, the researchers focus on some species/situations more than others to reflect samples received and the need to detect new resistance issues emerging in the UK aphid population.

Current focus

- (1) Various species (especially samples collected from protected crops)
- (2) Peach–potato aphid (prior to spraying – to help establish spread of insecticide resistance in UK populations)
- (3) Potato aphid, currant–lettuce aphid, grain aphid, bird–cherry oat aphid or rose–grain aphid (only where control failures have been experienced)

How to collect and send live aphid samples

Along a transect in the crop (avoid collecting aphids from one plant), collect plant material carrying aphids. About 50–60 aphids is optimum but don't worry if you can't collect this many.

Where possible, crush mummified aphids (see example, right) and avoid gathering natural enemies – ladybirds, hover flies, lacewings and parasitoids.

Put all plant material and aphids in a container (such as a margarine tub or cardboard box with a few small holes) with a small amount of dry tissue paper.

With each sample container, include the following information: your name / your contact details / date sampled / crop sampled / location sampled (farm name, town, county) / insecticides used (products, rates and application dates).



A mummified aphid. © Jon Oakley

How to post live samples

Put all sample containers in a crush-proof box.

Label the package: HANDLE WITH CARE. Post the package first class or next-day courier to: FAO: Steve Foster/Martin Williamson BCCP Department, Centenary Building, Rothamsted Research, Harpenden, Herts AL5 2 JQ.

Ideally, samples should arrive at Rothamsted Research on Monday–Thursday. Samples can be stored in the fridge prior to dispatch.

If possible, inform Rothamsted Research that the samples are on the way stephen.foster@rothamsted.ac.uk 01582 763133 ext 2356.

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