

In this issue:

- An introduction to the IOBC and some free resources they provide on biocontrol and IPM.
- Companion cropping in WOSR and its role in reducing pest and weed pressure.
- A reminder to destroy brassica trap crops by the end of February.
- Tools and guides available for pest, weed and disease identification.
- Upcoming webinars, events and other training.



Who are IOBC and what do they do?

The International Organisation for Biological Control (IOBC) are a global, voluntary organisation of professionals dedicated to promoting environmentally safe pest and disease control, focusing on biological control and its inclusion in integrated pest management (IPM).



The IOBC was founded in 1955 and consists of 6 regional sections, which are made up of working and study groups. Europe and the Mediterranean are covered by WPRS – West Palaearctic Regional Section.

IOBC resources

The [IOBC Internet Book of Biological Control \(version 6\)](#) provides an insight into the past, present and future of biological control and its role within IPM.



IOBC-WPRS

There are technical guidelines available online for [Integrated Production](#). There are both [general guidelines](#) and [crop-specific guidelines](#) covering arable, vegetable, grapes, olives, stone fruits and pome fruits.



The IOBC WPRS YouTube page has videos on [IPM in greenhouse crops](#) covering pest control methods and natural enemy management.

The EU 'Farmer's Toolbox for Integrated Pest management' shares [IPM Best practices](#) and [Crop/sector specific guidelines](#). Although there are no examples in the UK, research in neighbouring countries can still guide decisions.



Webinar - Cross-sector innovation in microbiome-based protection

Hosted by RSB Plant Health Series
Tuesday 3rd February, 2pm – 3pm

Join keynote speakers Dr Alicia Showering from BugBiome Ltd and Dr Lorena Rangel from the James Hutton Institute discussing microbial solutions and alternatives to conventional pesticides and fungicides for sustainable crop protection. This will be followed by an audience Q&A and opportunity for discussion.

More information and free registration [here](#).

The AHDB Resistance Roadshow

Uniting experts from across the country, The Resistance Roadshow aims to equip farmers with the knowledge, tools and confidence to manage pest, weed and disease resistance effectively across their whole farm business.

Events will run **9am-2pm**
Lunch will be served at 1pm
Book your nearest roadshow:

[10th February North East](#)

(Morpeth)

[11th February North East](#)

(Drifffield)

[25th February South East](#)

Links to relevant projects and initiatives

[IPMNET](#) | [Farm-PEP](#) | [IPMWORKS](#) | [AdvisoryNetPEST](#) | [IPM Decisions](#)



Companion Cropping in Oilseed Rape, what's it all about?

How can companion cropping help tackle pests and weeds in winter oilseed rape and reduce the need for chemicals?

Listen to [Agricology's latest podcast episode](#) with Dr Duncan Coston and Lynn Tatnell to hear more about the potential of companion cropping



You can learn more about the collaborative research project and get involved by visiting the [companion cropping in WOSR project website](#).

Important reminder to destroy trap crops by the end of Feb!

If you have been using brassica cover crops, OSR volunteers or brassica-based trap crops to protect against CSFB, destroying these by the end of February improves the chances of breaking the CSFB lifecycle and reduces the risk of reinfestation from these areas. Taking timely action to destroy these potential trap crops is a simple step that may help break the CSFB life cycle and aid in managing this pest.

For more info, visit the [United Oilseeds website](#).

Understanding the role cover crops play as trap crop for CSFB populations is one aspect of the AHDB CSFB Research+ project. For more information, see: [CSFB Research+ project page](#).

What is companion cropping?
Duncan explains (0:30)



Click to watch!

Video – supporting soil and plant health with reduced inputs (2:32)

A Latvian farm demonstrates how direct seeding, minimal soil disturbance, and diverse crop rotations can support soil and plant health while reducing inputs (no fungicides or insecticides were used in 2024 or up to mid-2025).



Click to watch!

Can't identify a pest, weed or disease? Try these resources:

- AHDB have encyclopaedias/guides for:

[Pests and natural enemies](#)

[Cereal diseases](#)

[Horticultural diseases](#)

[Arable weeds](#)

[Arable and Horticultural weeds](#)

[Apple and Pear tree pests and diseases](#)



- A general guide on diagnosing plant health problems, it includes photos, diagrams and tables to help identify pests and highlights any areas of confusion - [Plantwise Diagnostic Field Guide](#)
- A report written by experts in viticulture, includes main pests and diseases to grapes and vines and how to manage them sustainably – [EIP-AGRI Diseases and pests in viticulture](#)
- BCPC (British Crop Protection Council) have a free searchable guide with thousands of images of pests, weeds and diseases spanning 34 crops - [Identipest](#)
- And if that wasn't enough, you can enrol in a free e-learning course with CABI – [Crop Pest Diagnosis online course](#)

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