**TURNIP SAWFLY MANAGEMENT**

(Turnip Sawfly are on the move. They are currently feeding on forage rape, stubble turnips and volunteer rape, and may move on to newly planted winter oilseed rape crops. Anyone who came across them a couple of years ago will know just how rapidly they build up and how voraciously they feed – quickly skeletonising brassica crops.)

**Lifecycle**

The females cut the leaf margins with a saw-like ovipositor (hence their name) and lay single eggs into the pockets produced. After 6 to 10 days the larvae hatch and begin feeding. Younger larvae are initially light grey to light green, turning to this darker green to velvet black in the later stages before pupation. They have distinctive lighter, lateral stripe and are generally up to 2cm long.

**Monitoring**

Place yellow water traps in fields with brassica crops and identify the number of female flies over the monitoring period. A YELLOW lid is sufficient with approximately half an inch of water. Add a spot of washing up liquid and put a weight (brick, block etc.) in the middle to stop it blowing away.

**Control Options**

- Control of adults is not usually attempted but will reduce populations (and subsequent larval attack) if spraying can be timed to coincide with adult flight.
- Any spraying of adults will not be sufficiently persistent to give control of emerging larvae.
- Spraying should normally be timed to coincide with first signs of larval attack. A second spray is not usually required.
- Any pyrethroid insecticide will control them, although none have a specific turnip sawfly recommendation. However, provided that a product is approved for the crop being treated, and application is made within the approved timing on that crop, then application is perfectly legal.

*Take great care with product choice as not all pyrethroids are approved on all crops that are likely to be attacked. Our agronomists can advise you on this*