



PEST & DISEASE SURVEY



Defra Survey of Crop Pests & Diseases

Winter Oilseed Rape – Autumn 2024 diseases

Summary of findings

- Phoma A leaf spot was observed in every crop sampled – the highest level in the last 20 years.
- Downy mildew was recorded at above average levels, seen in almost half the crops surveyed.
- Lower than average levels of powdery mildew, light leaf spot and Alternaria were recorded.

In depth results

In late November-early December 2024, 83 commercial winter oilseed rape fields were surveyed (growth stage BBCH 15-19, mid leaf production) as part of the DEFRA Survey of Crop Pests and Diseases. More detail on the methodology can be found here: <https://www.pestanddiseasesurvey.co.uk/the-database>

Phoma A leaf spot (caused by *Plenodomus lingam*) was the most common disease observed in our samples and was found at every site visited (100% crop incidence). This was the highest level we have seen in the last 20 years. When looking at the individual plant data, 72% of plants sampled showed Phoma A leaf spot symptoms (plant incidence), compared to a 20-year average of 35% (Figure 1). In contrast, only 6% of crops had **Phoma B** (*Plenodomus biglobosus*) symptoms compared to a 20-year average crop incidence of 31%.

Downy mildew (*Peronospora parasitica*) symptoms were seen in 49% of crops surveyed, compared to a 20-year crop incidence average of 21%. This was reflected in higher plant incidence levels, with 9% of plants showing downy mildew symptoms compared to the 20-year average of 3% (Figure 2).

Powdery mildew (*Erysiphe cruciferarum*) crop incidence was lower than the 20-year average of 16%, with symptoms seen in 12% of crops surveyed. On average, 2% of plants sampled showed powdery mildew symptoms compared to a 20-year average of 5%.

Light Leaf Spot (*Pyrenopeziza brassicae*) crop incidence was observed at lower than average levels at 5% compared to the 20-year average of 8%.

Alternaria (dark leaf and pod spot; *Alternaria brassicae* and *A. brassicicola*) crop incidence was 11%, below the 20-year average of 33%.



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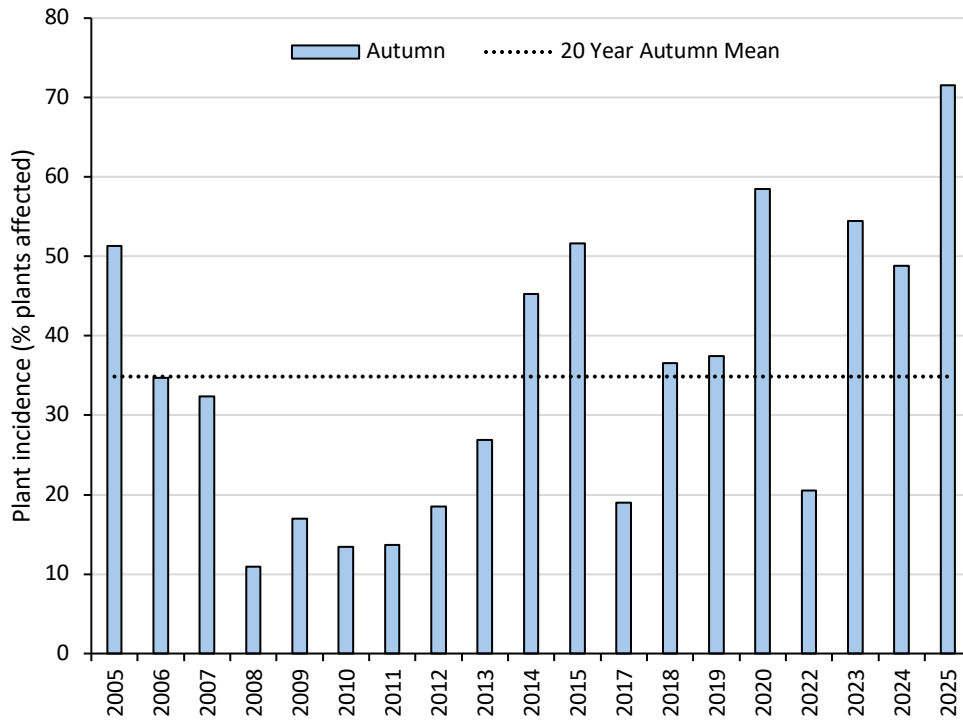


Figure 1. Phoma A plant incidence for Autumn assessed samples from 2005 to 2025. The years indicate the crop harvest year.

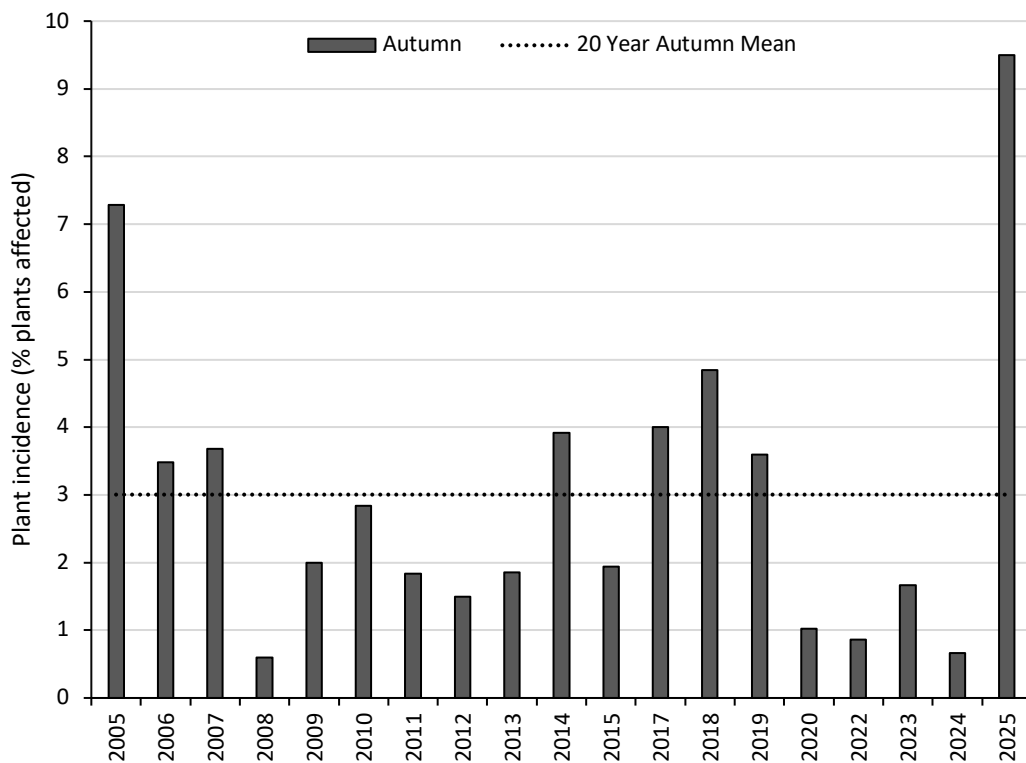


Figure 2. Downy mildew plant incidence for Autumn assessed samples from 2005 to 2025. The years indicate the crop harvest year.