

# A SURVEY OF CABBAGE STEM FLEA BEETLE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Cabbage stem flea beetle (CSFB) stem larvae populations were surveyed over winter 2021/22 by asking farmers across the UK to send in samples. Participants selected 10 random OSR plants, recorded notes on the management approaches used and NIAB counted the number of CSFB larvae per sample.

## Survey results

**Regional distribution:** results showed the distribution of larvae count varied considerably across the UK, with no strong regional pattern.

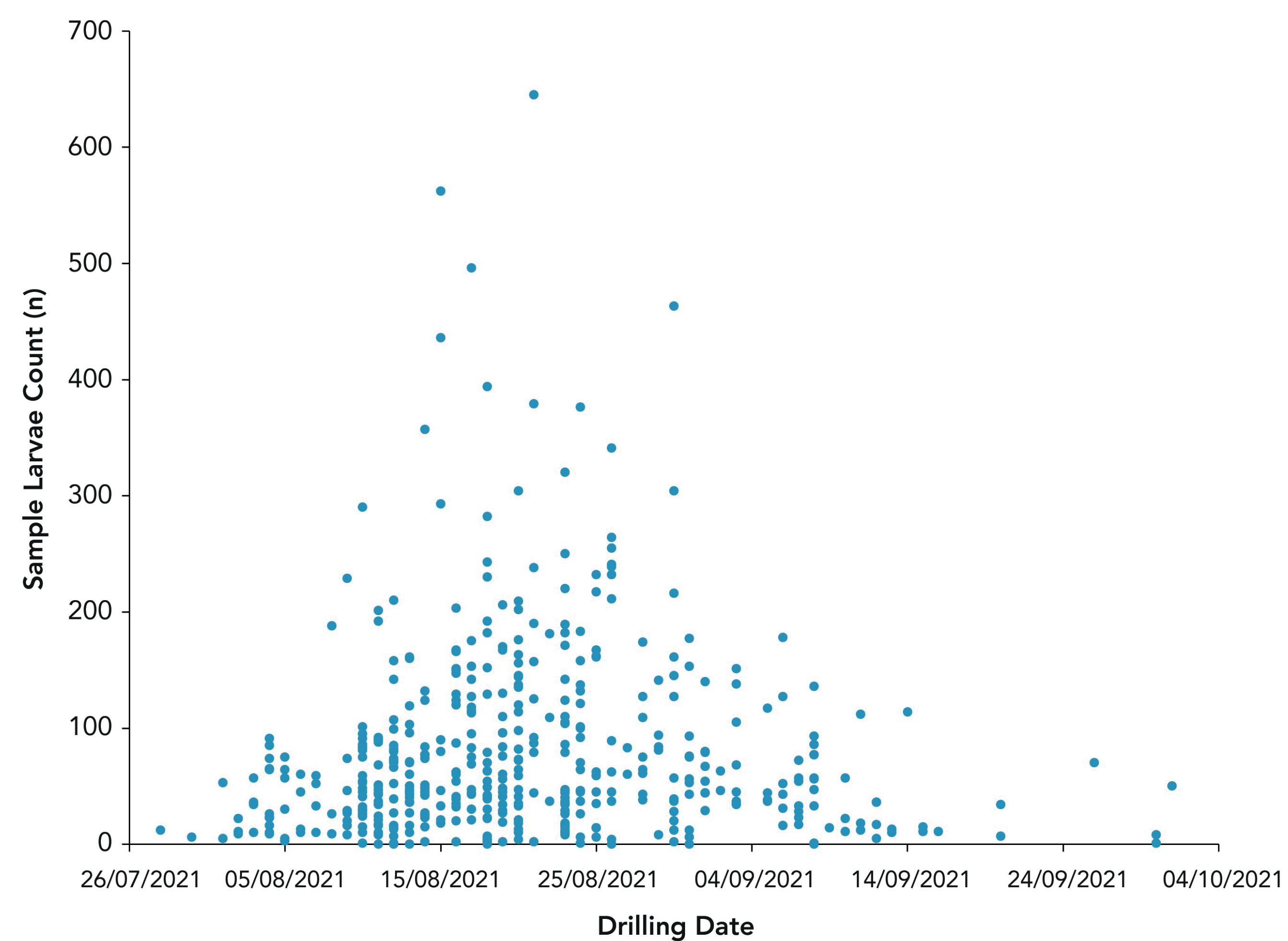
**Drilling date:** drilling OSR before 30th August significantly increased the risk of high larvae count compared to drilling OSR after 30th August.

**Variety:** varietal type and vigour did not have a significant impact on larval count.

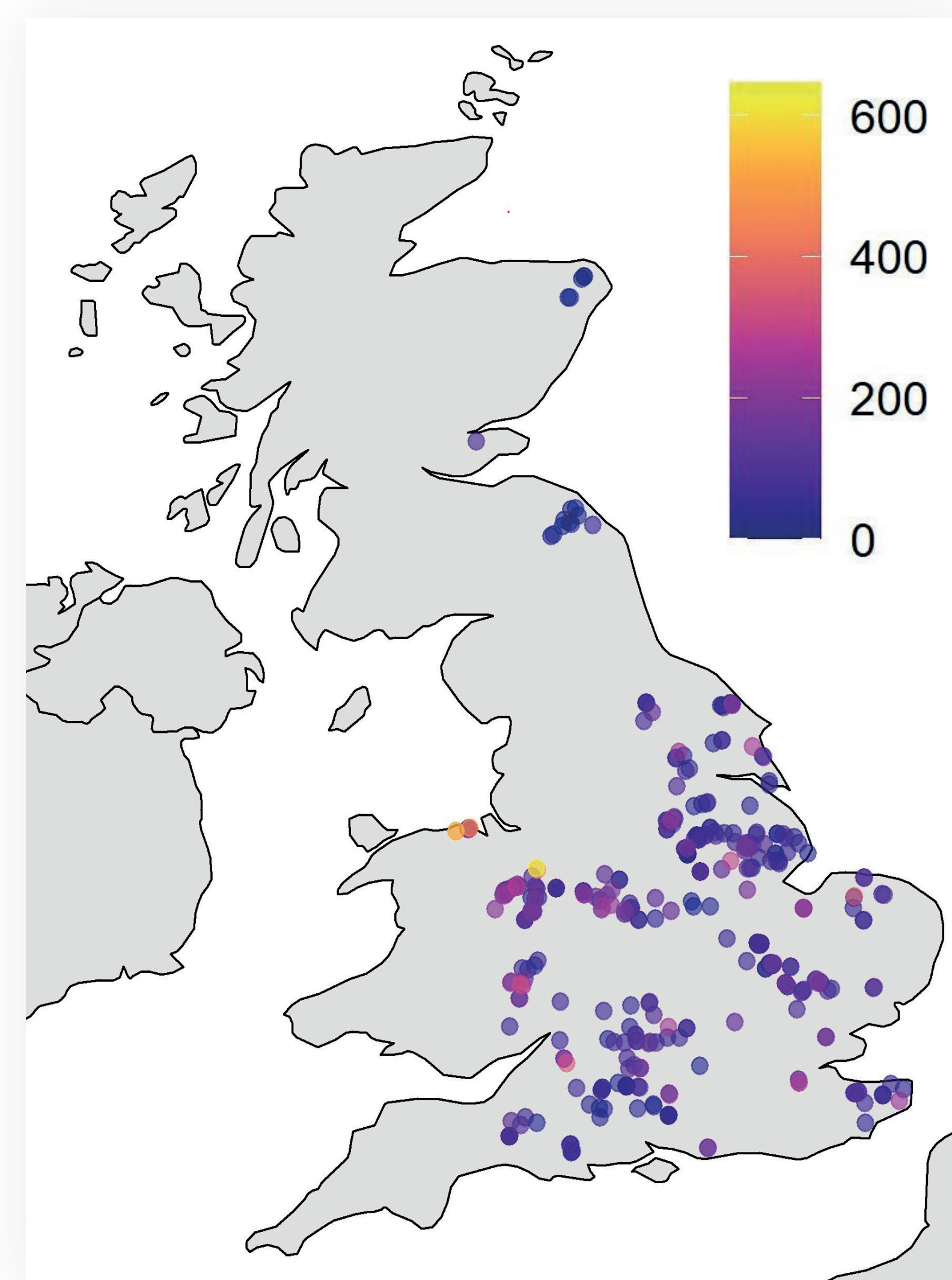
**Additional management:** recorded additional management practices did not lead to a significant reduction in larvae count in the stem during winter 2021/22, including:

- Companion/cover cropping
- Defoliation
- Establishment method
- Stubble length
- Starter fertiliser

Overall, drilling date appeared to be the strongest driver of CSFB larvae count in the stem during winter 2021/22. Future csfbSMART project work aims to improve understanding of the CSFB lifecycle and develop these results into practical IPM solutions.



Larvae count (n) by drilling date



Heatmap showing larvae count (n) distribution across the UK

## csfbSMART – ‘Sharing Management and Agronomy Research Tools’

The research project aims to test management methods and tools for use against cabbage stem flea beetle on UK farms, with OSR growers provided with information on how to implement and assess these management strategies.

csfbSMART partners and funders include:



csfbSMART industry taskforce includes Agrovista, AICC, BASF, Bayer CropScience, Cotton Farm Consultancy Ltd, DSV, Elsoms, Frontier, Innovative Farmers, KWS UK, Limagrain, LS Plant Breeding, RAGT, Sentry Ltd, Syngenta, Tuckwell Farms, United Oilseeds and Yara.