# Saddle gall midge winter wheat

## Insect, of which the larvae sporadic are causing damage in cereals

Saddle gall midge (Haplodiplosis marginata) is a sporadic pest of cereals, which usually persists at low population levels. Yield loss can be caused by constricted vascular supply to the ears as a result of larval feeding and by lodging of gall-weakened stems in high winds. Pupae overwinter in the soil, from which adults emerge in the spring to lay eggs on vulnerable crops. Damage is caused by subsequent larval feeding. Once larvae have crawled under the leaf sheath, they cannot be controlled using contact treatments (e.g. insecticides).
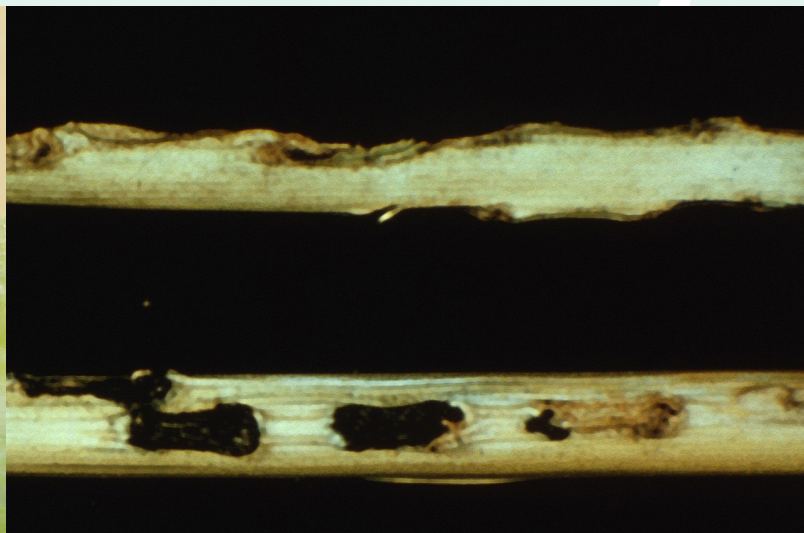


## Control with help of DSS on platform.ipmdecisions.net

This DSS indicates the best time to monitor crops for infestations (start of emergence). If abundance is high, and non-chemical management options are unlikely to achieve adequate control, treatment needs to be applied before, or soon after oviposition. DSS assumes the earliest date

of emergence of saddle gall midge to be after 500 day degrees. User must interpret the reported risk against the vulnerability of the crop growth stage on farm and undertake in field monitoring to assess the abundance of emerging adults.

## DSS parameters

The DSS starts on the date of first rainfall on or after the 1st March and ends at the end of July. The DSS uses accumulative daily temperature (500-degree days above 0 degrees) and rainfall. The DSS predicts proportion of cumulative emergence of the saddle gall midge, the associated risk and recommended action.

## DSS output

Based on current data available, the DSS indicates low current risk of saddle gall midge emergence. This model runs January - May, requiring data from the start of January. Emergence begins once 500-day degrees is exceeded and ends after 1500 day degrees. The 'Emergence' chart indicates that emergence is either unlikely to have started or is likely to be completed.
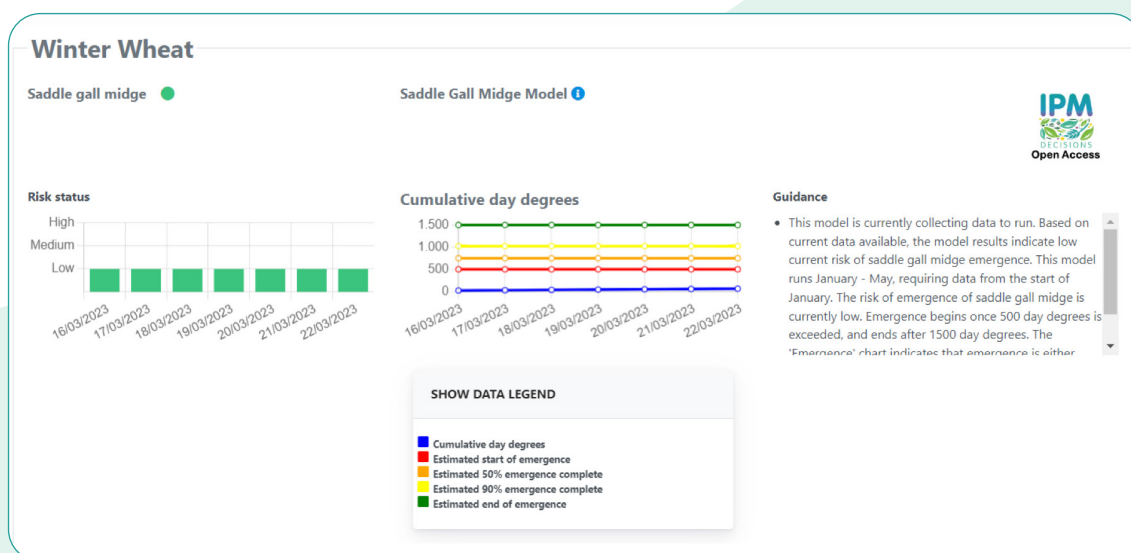


## Where can DSS be used

This DSS was adapted from work carried out in the UK, and is considered applicable, but not yet validated in, Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands, France, Germany, and Denmark.

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