



BALSU SUSTAINABILITY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2021

Integrated Pest Management



For the last three years, we have been disseminating the IPM approach with hazelnut farmers to help decrease the need for chemical pesticides, therefore reducing costs and environmental risks.

By the third week of April, it was good time to conduct identification and monitoring activities for some hazelnut pests. Pest are monitored in a sampled areas and caught in white cloth in hazelnut gardens throughout Sakarya and Düzce provinces. The existence of pests was limited in compared to the same time last year.

In the field observations, Nut weevil (*Curculio nucum*) and the Green stink bug (*Palomena prasine*) were detected; no chemical control methods were required, mechanical and biological control measures have been advised.

In addition, the May bug (*Melolontha melolontha*) and the Hazelnut bud nite (*Phytoptus avellanae*) were detected and locally, powdery mildew symptoms were present.



The farmers were informed that pest count should be done again in two weeks' time to determine the population density and control methods.

Pheromone traps are placed for the Brown Marmorated stink bug (*Halyomorpha halys*) at Balsu model gardens.

Farmer Training On Estimating Hazelnut Crop



This month we held applied training programs with farmers regarding the hazelnut crop estimation within their hazelnut gardens.

The farmers were informed on the Government's early season yield projection (March- April) and mid-season yield update (May – June) methodology and alternative methodologies.

Our trainings involved key determinants and parameters for the proper estimation of the hazelnut crop. These included evaluating which branches should be picked, counted and developing a standardized system for all different types of hazelnuts.

Internal And External Monitoring Processes

In April, Balsu farmers who are certified in good agricultural practices were assessed by the provincial directorate of agricultural offices.

On the other hand, we continue to prepare farmers for 2021 harvest via trainings and assessments through internal monitoring activities.



Distance Learning

We continue conducting farmer training programs in accordance with the pandemic precautions and practices. We share hazelnut certification, good social, agricultural and environmental practices and occupational health and safety training modules with the farmers through our social media accounts and SMS system.

Click for the training module: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1G2x-JnOj-c>