

## Crop 2021

Throughout the month of May, we closely followed the developments of the 2021 harvest.

In previous months, we evaluated the risks of warm winter conditions, drought and early rejuvenation.

Despite these risks, good flowering and pollination activity has been noted in the gardens and the 2021 crop looks promising.



National and international institutes also share their estimates; According to Istanbul and Blacksea Hazelnut and Hazelnut Products Exporters Association, the 2021 hazelnut harvest will reach 803 thousand tons.

On the other hand, the Ministry of Agriculture start crop estimation in hazelnut gardens mid-June and finalize within a month states that it is necessary to wait until mid-July for “actual” crop numbers in hazelnuts.

Farmers’ maintenance activities continue throughout May. The activities carried out during these months are the best methods of combating hazelnut pests and diseases. Thanks to these activities, hazelnut farmers grow quality, high yield and environmentally friendly products.



## Hazelnut Pest and Diseases

When we compare the pest count results we carried out in 2021 with those of the previous year; there is a 2% increase in the nut weevil (*Curculio nucum*) and 0.4% increase in the green stink bug (*Palomena prasine*) in terms of being above the economic loss threshold.

Also, there is a 31.4% decrease in the number of gardens with powdery mildew disease. In addition, this year, it was observed that the fall webworm's (*Hyphantria cunea*) emergence was delayed due to rainy weather conditions.

The amount of chemicals used by the hazelnut farmers decreased by 20-30% compared to the same period last year, this is depending on the adoption of integrated pest management techniques, input costs, weather conditions, etc.



## Mapping Activity of Seasonal Agricultural Workers

As Balsu, we have been working to prevent child labor and improve living and working conditions in seasonal agricultural labour since the year 2014.

Within the scope of Mapping Seasonal Agricultural Workers, we first contacted hazelnut farmers, local authorities and Village Headmen. Then, we updated our information on the numbers of workers and the children, their demographics, etc. who would come to the hazelnut producing region by communicating with the Labour Contractors and Workerheads.

Our main goal here is to increase the impact of interventions such as "safe areas" that would be carried out within our child protection program during the hazelnut harvest period.

