



Pest and Disease Monitoring Conducted in Hazelnut Orchards

In the month of May, when pests emerge and diseases manifest in hazelnut orchards, pest counts and disease detection were carried out in the gardens of 45 hazelnut farmers across 7 provinces. Prompt notifications regarding the emergence and prevalence of diseases and pests in different regions were provided to all farmers, ensuring that they take necessary control and preventive measures while also avoiding unnecessary chemical usage.

Furthermore, we consistently ensure the monitoring of hazardous and banned pesticides in [Türkiye](#) and [Europe](#), sharing lists of licensed and prohibited chemicals in hazelnut farming with our farmers. We provide education to farmers about measures aimed at reducing the effects of chemicals classified as hazardous.

Due to below-average temperatures experienced in our region since February, the pest counts started later this year. As a result of the low temperatures, the harmful American White Butterfly has not yet been detected.

When comparing the initial pest counts to the previous year, there have been some changes. The population density of Hazelnut Moths has decreased by 15% in the Eastern Black Sea region. In the Western Black Sea region, the population density of Green Stink Bugs has increased by 25%, while the population density of Hazelnut Moths remains similar to last year. The occurrence rate of Powdery Mildew has decreased by 5%.

Since the emergence of pests and the density of populations, as well as the occurrence and spread of diseases, are directly influenced by climatic factors such as temperature, precipitation, and humidity, we would like to emphasize that regular visits to the gardens for inspections will continue in the coming months.





Field Visits Initiated for Crop Yield and Quality Estimation

Every year, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Exporter Associations, and industry firms conduct field visits at specific intervals based on phenological development to estimate the yield of the crop for that year. During these visits, we inspect the hazelnut fruit buds or fruit condition and make calculations using statistical methods. However, due to the lengthy fruit development period, a definitive statement cannot be made until before the harvest.

Our expert team has now begun field visits for this purpose. Despite some regional damages, hazelnuts have survived the risk of frost by the end of March, and the overall expectation is that the yield will be close to the actual yields of the past two years. However, according to the predictions of meteorologists and meteorological data, we are in a season with a high risk of weather events due to climate changes influenced by global warming.

The month of May is characterized by rainy and cool conditions. Hazelnuts are entering the pollination period, and temperatures below 21°C in the first weeks of June may increase the formation of empty fruits in hazelnuts.





Balsu Participates in FLA's Traceability-Focused Meeting

Balsu actively participated in a significant meeting organized by the Fair Labor Association (FLA) with the aim of encouraging member companies in the agricultural sector to take on more responsibility in traceability matters.

One of the key topics discussed during the meeting was the [mandatory requirement for FLA](#) members to transparently publish their traceability profiles within the supply chain. Member companies were emphasized to share information covering specific stages in the supply chain and to meet responsible sourcing standards. This meeting facilitated the exchange of experiences and knowledge among FLA members, enabling them to make further progress in traceability.

At Balsu, we continue to strengthen our traceability system to ensure transparency and traceability at every stage of our supply chain. With this system, we record and track all steps from hazelnut orchards to our factories and from our factory to our customers.

Public Visits Commence for Sustainable Hazelnut Villages Project

We have entered the second year of our [Sustainable Hazelnut Villages Project](#), which we initiated in 2022. At this stage, we have started conducting public and local government visits as part of the project. Meetings were held with 25 stakeholders in the month of May. During these meetings, the second-year objectives of the project was communicated to the stakeholders, and invitations have been sent for their participation in the first working group meeting of the second year.

The project aims to establish a permanent working group led by the local administration, consisting of village leaders, municipal officials, and other relevant stakeholders, with the goal of implementing a sustainable governance model. The established working group strengthens collaboration between local governments, civil society organizations, and hazelnut producers, supporting the long-term sustainability of the project.