

# Rosy apple aphid: Promote natural antagonists against the rosy apple aphid

## Problem

The rosy apple aphid is one of the most important and dangerous pests. This is due to its short development cycle and large reproductive potential.

## Solution

Promoting different antagonists through the establishment of flower strips is an important component of the rosy apple aphid control strategy in organic orchards.

## Benefits

Flower strips have a positive impact on pest management – addressing various pests. They enhance the biodiversity of orchards and promote beneficial insects, such as Hoverfly, lacewing and ladybug larvae as well as birds and bats.

## Practical recommendation

- Use native perennial and species rich flower strips to promote aphid predating and/or -parasitising beneficial insects (e.g., flower bugs, gall midges, etc.).
- Several adult parasitoids and predators depend on open flowers and accessible pollen for their development.
- Important native herbs with open flowers are Meadow-Labwort (*Galium album*), Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), Dyer's Chamomile (*Anthemis tinctoria*), Chicory (*Cichorium intybus*), wild carrot (*Daucus carota*), Meadow Pippe (*Crepis biennis*), Rough Dandelion (*Leontodon hispidus*).
- Place flower strips in the middle of each or each second driving alley for best results (Picture 1). Alternatively place them along the edges of orchards as high perennial strips (Picture 2).
- Be cautious in vole management as voles may find shelter among flower strips.

Read this practice abstract for more info on requirement, implementation, maintenance and advantages/disadvantages of flowering strips within the driving alleys<sup>1</sup>.

## Applicability box

### Theme

Crop production, Horticulture, Temperate Fruits

### Keywords

Plant protection, apple, pest control, aphids, biodiversity, flower strips

### Context

Central Europe

### Required time

3-6 months after sowing

### Period of impact

Spring - Autumn

### Equipment

Flower seeds, mill, drill, mower

### Best in

Organic farms



Picture 1: Colony of the rosy apple aphid (*D. plantaginea*) on leaf underside (Photo: ESTEBURG Fruit growing Center Jork 2011).



Picture 2: Ladybug larvae feed on aphids of the species *D. plantaginea* and *A. pomi* (Photo: ESTEBURG Fruit growing Center Jork, 2011)



Picture 3: Flower strips in the middle of a driving alley within an apple orchard (Photo: C. Adolphi, 2021)



Picture 4: Flower strips in the orchards as high perennial strips (Photo: C. Adolphi, 2021)

## Further information

### Further reading

- Brochure on [flower strips with native wild herbs in apple orchards to promote natural antagonists of aphids](#) (in German)

### Weblinks

1. Lindhard Pedersen, H. 2022. [Practice abstract: Prevention of Rosy apple aphid infestation using flower strips](#). Hortiadvise. BIOFRUITNET.

## About this practice abstract

**Publisher:** Fördergemeinschaft Ökologischer Obstbau e.V. (FÖKO)  
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**Permalink:** [Organic-farmknowledge.org/tool/44183](https://organic-farmknowledge.org/tool/44183)

**Project name:** BIOFRUITNET- Boosting Innovation in ORGANIC FRUIT production through stronger networks

**Project website:** <https://biofruitnet.eu>

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