

IMPACT OF LANDSCAPE COMPLEXITY ON POLLINATION AND PEST REGULATION

Intensive horticultural practices can lead to unsustainable activities which exacerbate damage to the environment. Increased biodiversity can lead to more resilient ecosystems but requires a holistic understanding of the ecological mechanisms at work.

Working within a European science partnership, NIAB is studying the landscape complexity across 18 commercial UK fruit farms and assessing the impact of increasing landscape complexity on pest regulation and crop pollination. The project focuses on parasitoid diversity in aphids on strawberry, and the abundance and diversity of bees in and around the crops.

The findings will guide government policy and actions for the implementation of agri-environmental schemes on fruit farms and highlight the added benefits of habitat connectedness and landscape diversity.



Hoverfly



Adult Lacewing



Wildflower area



Pussy willow



Parasitic wasp



Nettles



Buff-tailed bumble bee

This research is jointly funded by



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



SusCrop – ERA-NET
Cofund on Sustainable Crop Production
FACCEJPI

In collaboration with



**BERRY
GARDENS**



**AVALON
FRESH™**