

Can we use flowers to protect apples from a major pest?

In orchards with flower margins, only 48% of trees had fruit damage compared to 80% in orchards without flowers during peak aphid outbreaks (a difference of 2,400 kg/ha of fruit).

Significant reductions in the incidence of damaged crop extended up to 50 meters into orchards from the flower margins.



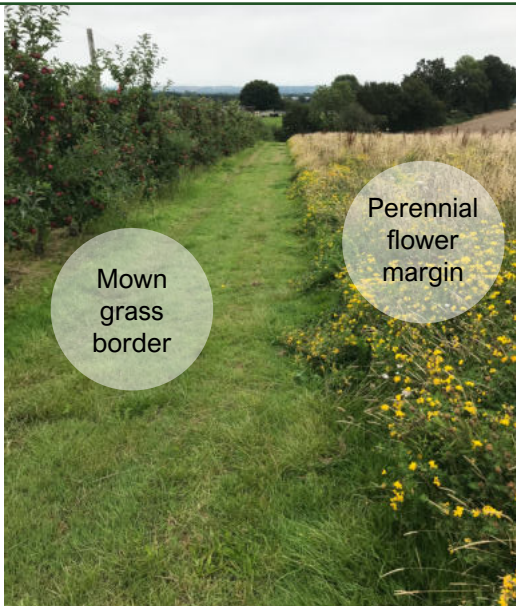
Major apple pest, Rosy apple aphid



An undamaged apple next to Rosy aphid-damaged apples

How did we do it?

Flower Margin Orchards



Mown grass border

Perennial flower margin

Control Orchards



Standard mown grass border only

Why do we care?

- ✓ Apples are widely grown
- ✓ Rosy apple aphid is a prolific global pest
- ✓ Flower margins are a sustainable method
- ✓ Real, conventional orchards
- ✓ Yield benefits
- ✓ Far-reaching benefits



Full paper