

# GRAZERS UPDATE

## PIGEONS... A BIG PROBLEM

Pigeons have become an enormous pest in the UK. A report from 2012 says Britain's woodpigeon breeding population has been estimated at 8.2 million - the result of a sustained increase linked to the introduction of autumn-sown oilseed rape in the early 1970s. Pigeons are a serious pest of brassica crops such as cabbage, sprouts and broccoli causing damage especially to young plants.

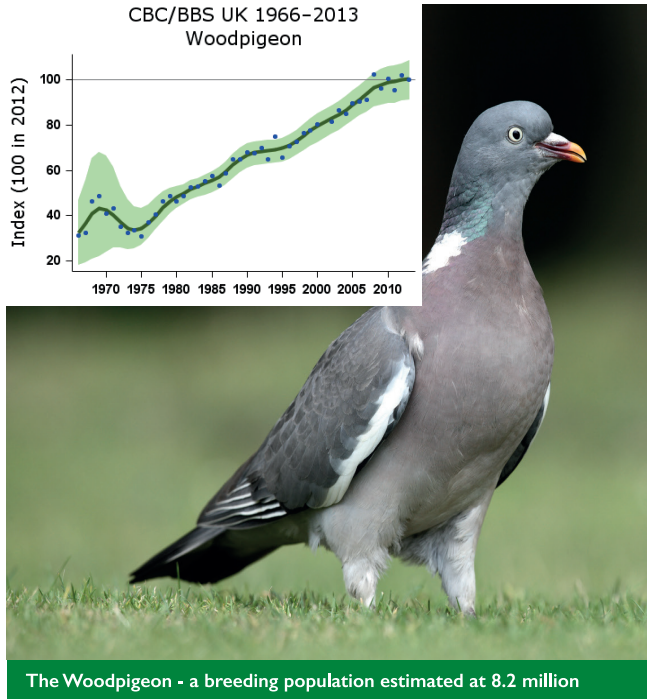
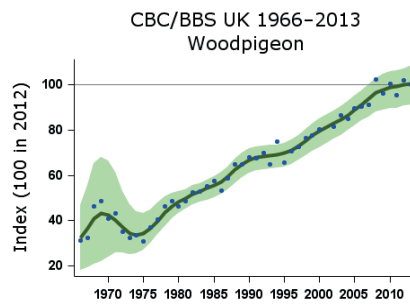
### Case Study - Plants Galore

Plants Galore nursery in Essex have been growing salad and veg since 1934 and more recently growing vast numbers of bedding plants which are extremely vulnerable to pigeon attack.

In 2012 they ran their own trial using Grazers in an attempt to reduce the huge losses. After talking with us at Grazers we worked out a spray programme which was effective and practical on a large scale operation.



Bedding Plants in Nursery



The Woodpigeon - a breeding population estimated at 8.2 million

When I spoke to Plants Galore this year I asked them how they were using Grazers now against the damage caused by the persistent pigeon...

- Q. Range of plants being treated edible and ornamental?  
A. Pansy & Viola
- Q. What size are the plants when sprayed?  
A. Seedlings (plugs)
- Q. Preferred rate and water volume?  
A. 20ml in 10 litre knapsack rate to treat plugs before planting and 500ml in 250 litres of water once planted
- Q. Spray programme?  
A. Before planting using a knapsack allowing leaf to dry between and after planting with a mounted sprayer
- Q. How often do you repeat spray?  
A. Once a week until plants are out of danger
- Q. Do you add a surfactant (wetting agent) to help it stick or just as it is?  
A. As it is (though Grazers do recommend an inert surfactant to help it spread)

**They have been using Grazers ever since.**

**GRAZERS**  
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