Hazelnut Efficiency Increases with Environmental Approach

In 2024 post-harvest training programs, Balsu engaged with nearly a thousand farmers across six provinces in the Black Sea region.

The trainings focused on environmental sustainability and covered the following topics:
- **Compost production**
- **To combat the brown marmorated stink bug**
- **Regenerative agricultural techniques**

For soil analysis, support was provided to 108 farmers in the Western Black Sea and 51 farmers in the Eastern Black Sea. Environmental impacts were reduced through fertilisation strategies in accordance with the results of analyses, and 2084 farmers were provided with 781 tons of organic agricultural input support.

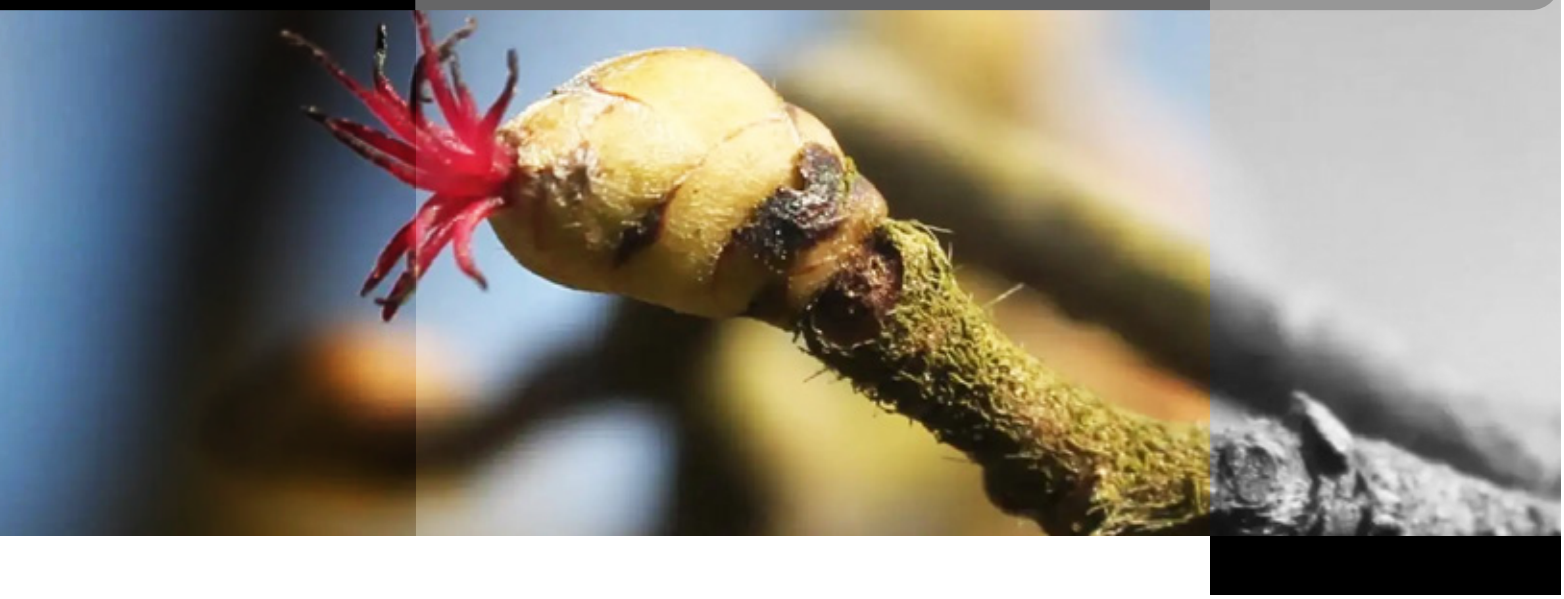
Combatting the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug

Our winter activities for 2024, focus on effective pest management before and after the overwintering period of the brown marmorated stink bug (November-March). In this context, the activity levels of stink bugs are closely monitored prior to their transition into hibernation. Methods such as biocidal spraying, the use of parasitoids, and mechanical control are being implemented.

In collaboration with orchard owners, these efforts support both environmental sustainability and enhanced production. Details about the stink bug's life cycle and critical stages for management can be found in the table below.

Period	Phases	Details
Winter (November - March)	Resting - Wintering	Stink bugs hibernate in sheltered areas such as attics, warehouses, etc.
Spring (April)	Exiting Wintering	They become active when temperatures rise. They turn to plants for feeding and mating.
Spring (May)	Egg Laying	Female stink bugs lay eggs in groups (20-30 pieces) under the leaves of plants.
Summer (June-July)	Nymph Hatching from Egg	The eggs hatch in about 4-7 days and the nymphs begin to feed.
Summer (July-August)	Transition from nymph to adult stage	Nymphs go through 5 different developmental stages. They become adults in about 30-50 days.
Autumn (September-October)	Nutrition and Wintering Preparation	Adult stink bugs increase feeding and look for areas suitable for wintering.



Hazelnut Development and Meteorological Data

November marks the beginning of the chilling period in hazelnut production, a critical phase that directly impacts the future harvest. During this process, the optimal temperature range for the healthy development of hazelnut buds is between 0-7°C.

However, abnormally high temperatures can cause buds to awaken prematurely, posing significant risks to production.

Balsu regularly analyzes meteorological data to guide hazelnut farmers. The goal is to identify these risks in advance and ensure a productive and sustainable cultivation process.

Technical Field Trip Organized in Collaboration with Çaycuma District Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry & Balsu

As part of the project "Türkiye's Treasure Becomes Çaycuma's Best" jointly carried out by Balsu and the Çaycuma District Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry, 35 hazelnut farmers from Çaycuma participated in a technical field trip.

Within the scope of the programme, farmers visited Balsu Hendek Factory and Düzce University Hazelnut Application and Research Centre (DÜFAM).

Balsu Factory Visit: Farmers exchanged technical information with our experts in our model garden and received information about hazelnut production and supply processes.

Visit to DÜFAM: Professor Şemsettin Kulaç made a detailed presentation on pruning, irrigation and fertilisation techniques in hazelnut.

We Ran for Education in Istanbul Marathon

As Balsu, we ran with our team of 15 people for a meaningful goal in cooperation with the Young Lives Foundation at the 46th Istanbul Marathon of Türkiye İş Bankası held on 3 November 2024.

On this path we set out with the slogan 'Support to Educate', we aimed to provide scholarship support to the children of seasonal migrant agricultural workers during the education period.

Thanks to the donations collected, 161 children were provided with a scholarship of 1500 TL every month during the education period to support their education.

B.E.S.T Program Winter Term Activities Started

Balsu has launched the winter activities of the B.E.S.T Program, implemented in collaboration with the Young Lives Foundation, aiming to combat child labor, support access to education, and promote sustainable agricultural practices.

The program seeks to raise awareness within local communities and create a lasting social impact through collaboration between public institutions, the private sector, and civil society.

Visits have commenced in the provinces of Diyarbakır, Şırnak, and Şanlıurfa, which experience significant migration during the harvest season, to develop sustainable partnerships with public institutions.

Throughout the winter period, the following activities will be carried out:
- **Monitoring and guidance towards formal education,**
- **Case management,**
- **Awareness training,**
- **Farmer visits,**
- **Cultural events.**