

Pest warning as rat infestations rise across Hambleton

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Mark Foster - Chief Reporter (North Yorkshire)



RAT infestations in gardens are on the rise.

Pest control officers in the Hambleton district say they have seen a significant increase in the number of cases needing action since October.

They blame the increased use of compost heaps, putting out bird feed, waste food disposal and intensified agriculture which provide rats with a ready food supply and allowing more of the rodents to reach adulthood.

The council points out that landowners have a legal duty to ensure land is kept rat and mouse free. Leaving any rat population untreated and allowing it to develop increases the risk of damage and disease and makes subsequent control more costly and difficult.

"It is essential that action is taken as quickly as possible by both reducing the numbers and preventing rats coming into properties," said a spokesman.