

APPLES*It's our people that make the difference*

- Cox picking is now under way for long term storage. Early Gala sites are also picking but in many instances the starch patterns are only just beginning to move, with this week identified for most mid-season sites.
- With a 10 day harvest interval, it is getting tight for applying Cerone to early cider varieties. For colouring later picked dessert varieties, temperatures look good this week for application, but be careful with rates or you may get fruit dropping prematurely.
- There should be plenty of opportunity to apply post-harvest foliar nutrition and to protect orchards against canker infection with fungicides. The most wounds occur on trees in the post-harvest period, with scars from fruit picking and more scars as leaves start to fall. Tebuconazole is the most effective option to protect picking scars but captan is useful too. Fathom (MAPP 17452) can be used once at 0.325 l/ha. Folicur is no longer available. The Emergency Authorisation for Cuprokylt (copper oxychloride) expired in July but another should be forthcoming to cover autumn use. Remember it is not advised to use urea (5% solution) as a post-harvest spray where canker is an issue, but it is useful for improving bud quality and reducing scab inoculum.

PEARS

- Mid-season sites should be picking this week but later sites should keep testing and are likely to pick soon after.

CHERRIES

- The International Fruit Tree Association toured cherry orchards in British Columbia recently. Read a report [here](#).

STRAWBERRIES

- Benevia 10 OD can only be used until the end of this month and any unopened packs should be returned to distributors by the end of October.

BLACKCURRANTS

- Early autumn applications of Roundup Powermax can be very effective in checking perennial weeds, as translocation into roots is accentuated by the shortening day length. Bush damage can result if foliage is contacted by the material. Side trimming removes trailing or collapsing branches, and allows applications via hooded, directed nozzles to be applied safely. Where grass weeds within the bush row are the chief problem, application of Centurion Max should be considered. Recent rain has greened up the foliage facilitating uptake. Arable colleagues report improved efficacy where X-Clude water conditioner is used with this product.
- Flowering next season occurs before root function has fully resumed, and is sustained by storage compounds laid down in stems and roots. Work at Long Ashton using radioactively labelled nitrogen demonstrated that post-harvest applications are taken up and can contribute to accumulation of reserves. Now that soil moisture levels have been restored, and extension growth has ceased, consider applying around 50 kg/ha of Nitrogen to all cropping plantations.
- The end of this month is the optimum timing for an application of Calypso to control returning aphids in the crop. Calypso at this timing can also control Woolly Currant Scale, but only if applied in a high enough water volume (minimum 400 l/ha), and Wetcit is added (1 litre/1000 litres).
- Congratulations to Harriet Prosser on the safe arrival of Toby. Mother and baby both doing well, we hear.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Don't forget that under the terms of the Emergency Authorisations for Exirel 10 SE on plum, raspberry, blackberry and blueberry, use must cease by the end of October and unopened packs should be returned to distributors by the end of November. After that date it will be illegal to store this product on farm.
- As you are no doubt aware, last Thursday the Home Office announced a 2 year pilot scheme re-introducing a Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme for non-EU nationals. As announced it will only be for 2,500 workers, but full details have yet to be received by industry representatives. You can read the initial announcement [here](#) and the NFU's response [here](#).