

## APPLES

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- The cold weather has probably delayed bud burst by up to a week for dessert and culinary varieties. This means the window will be a bit longer for applications of Cuprokyt for canker control. Adding Wetcit will improve coverage and control.
- Given that the spraying season is about to start, is your sprayer serviced, cleaned, calibrated and ready to go? Don't forget if you attend the NSTS test, you can claim NROSO points (as you can by reading these bulletins – the details are at the bottom of the page).
- After recent low temperatures, don't be tempted to apply blossom weevil sprays yet. Apple Blossom Weevil will start to be found in orchards once temperatures reach 12°C, and will be actively flying on warm, bright days of 18°C or above.
- Our Hutchinsons Enhanced Light Interception Orchard System (HELIOS) trial orchards are being planted shortly (ground preparation at our Gloucestershire site shown, right) and you will have a chance to look at them this summer but you can read some more information [here](#).



## PEARS

- Pear bud is moving slowly where it has been very cold (Concorde bud in Kent on 9<sup>th</sup> March pictured, right) but it won't be long before the timing is perfect to apply sulphur to suppress Pear Leaf Blister Mite. Remember that this is your main chance to get on top of this pest, since once they are inside the leaf, they are very difficult to control.
- As with Apple Blossom Weevil, the new Pear Blossom Weevil (*Anthonomus spilotus*) will not have been active in the cold weather and will need warmer temperatures before you think about spraying to control. Beating trees last week produced no weevils for our agronomists.
- As you can imagine, Pear Sucker adults have not been very active in the last 10 days, so eggs are hard to find, but keep monitoring.



## PLUMS

- Pre-bud burst application of Headland Copper will suppress bacterial canker infection. Buds are starting to swell so this needs to be done soon. This will also suppress sporulation of *Taphrina pruni*, the fungus which causes pocket plum disease.
- With neither Indar 5 EW nor Systhane 20 EW available any more, the choice of fungicides to reduce sporulation of Blossom Wilt and Brown Rot spores, especially on mummified fruits, is extremely limited. All of the remaining authorised fungicides on plums are principally protectant products, namely Serenade ASO, Signum, Switch and Teldor. In the laboratory, Serenade ASO and Signum have both shown very limited anti-sporulant activity. Switch may reduce sporulation from mummified fruits, but orchard hygiene is now more important than ever.
- Remember that the cut-off for application of Stomp Aqua for residual weed control is bud burst.
- Apricots that have survived the cold are coming into bloom, so apply a Blossom Wilt spray with [Kelpak](#) to aid set.

## CHERRIES

- You should already be trapping for Spotted Wing Drosophila. Traps should be placed in the crop and in nearby woodland or scrub. You should be looking to build up data on the annual pattern of population size and rate of increase, which will give you some warning of the magnitude of infestation come harvest time. All the details of what to do at [www.horticulture.ahdb.org.uk/swd](http://www.horticulture.ahdb.org.uk/swd). Traps are available through Hutchinsons.
- Orders should be in for bumblebees for flowering time. It takes 3 months to produce a mature hive, so the tap cannot be turned on and off. If you have orders placed, keep the delivery dates under review as you may need to put them back a week as a result of the cold snap. Bumblebees can be put out into orchards 4-7 days before flowering and they will have enough food in the hive to sustain them, but any longer than that and you will need some pollen sent with the hives, so that you can feed them.

## MISCELLANEOUS

- As you may have read in the trade press, Hutchinsons have appointed Chris Williams to manage the sundries side of our business. We will send out occasional updates with these bulletins, but if you have any enquiries, please contact Chris at our Canterbury depot on 01227 830064 or [chris.williams@hlh ltd.co.uk](mailto:chris.williams@hlh ltd.co.uk)