

APPLES

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- Many farms have reached threshold for Codling Moth, but there also some which have not. The same is true for Fruit Tree Tortrix. The most robust control for Codling is Coragen, but if you are only finding low numbers (but above threshold) then Runner is a suitable alternative, and it is very good on all tortrix species. Runner is very effective against eggs if they are laid onto treated surfaces, but it will not prevent some feeding damage ('stings') if larvae have hatched as it does not paralyse the larvae. Coragen is ovicidal so will work if applied after eggs have been laid and also stops larvae feeding rapidly, through paralysis. If are using RAK 3+4, then you should be catching no moths or at least below threshold numbers in your pheromone traps. If this is not the case, then you must use an insecticide as the mating disruption is not working adequately.
- Keep vigilant for signs of scab. After a wet week, you should be applying kickback or eradicant fungicide as well as protectant. With more settled weather forecast, spray intervals can start to be lengthened if no scab can be found in your orchards.
- With warmer, drier weather forecast, mildew risk will increase, with extension growth growing rapidly, given adequate soil moisture. Remember Justice has a 49 day harvest interval, so use will have to stop on early harvesting varieties soon.
- With Regalis Plus having a 55 day harvest interval, the window for application closes in a few weeks.
- Check orchards carefully, as we are still finding some live Rosy Apple Aphid colonies and it is still some weeks before they will start migrating to their summer host. If you have only used Calypso or Gazelle SG for the pest, then consider using Mainman as it has a different mode of action.
- We are seeing excellent control of Woolly Aphid where Movento Top has been applied. Incidentally, we are also seeing Mussel Scale being controlled.
- The June drop is well under way, and the effectiveness of thinning chemical applications should be assessed and hand thinning to reduce crop load started. Conversely, frosted orchards are showing a bit more fruit now, although frost rings and frost 'lick' are all too easy to find. However, skin russetting is generally low.
- European Fruit Grower magazine has reported on frost damage in its latest edition. Poland (which grows up to 30% of the European apple crop) escaped damage from the April frosts, but was hit with frost in flowering in May and also generally poor setting conditions. It is estimated they only have half an average crop. Significant frost losses from cold temperatures in April are reported in Italy (South Tyrol), France (alpine regions) and Germany. The Lake Constance area reports variable damage according to local topography, but the east and north of Germany are relatively unscathed. The Netherlands has a large proportion of orchards frost protected, but in areas where they do not frost protect, the Dutch estimate 50% crop loss. In Belgium it is worse, with the Belgian farmers' union estimating 20% of a normal crop.

PEARS

- Pear sucker has been suppressed by the rain, but nymphs can be found on some shoot tips. You can keep their development suppressed by regular applications of Epsom salts and/or mancozeb.
- Pear Bedstraw Aphid is proving problematic in Kent, so check your orchards and treat as per Rosy Apple Aphid above.
- The Dutch and Belgian Conference crop is still being assessed in terms of quantity, but gibberellin applications appear to have set a reasonable crop.

PLUMS

- Plum Moth numbers have declined in the cooler, wetter, windy weather. Expect them to rise this week. With crops varying from too many on a tree to none at all, adjust thresholds for treatment in discussion with your agronomist.

CHERRIES

- SWD is already a concern in early varieties. Monitoring fruit is the best way to assess the level of the problem as harvest approaches. Earlier trap monitoring will have given you an insight as to the scale of the problem you might expect but the fruits are more attractive than the traps as fruit starts to ripen.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Please note the new BASIS CPD number at the foot of this bulletin which applies from 1st June.

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