

## APPLES

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- A significant week for scab infection last week in all areas. Even if you think you had good protectant cover, with heavy rainfall and continuing development of leaves and shoots, it will be best to include a curative fungicide next time you spray. These are Difference or Scala.
  - Difference is locally systemic and can give control of infections 60-72 hours old. Post-infection activity is dependent on adequate leaf penetration by the fungicide. This is very efficient at temperatures of 10-15°C. Optimum performance is achieved when applied at temperatures higher than 16°C. It has good curative effect due to anti-sporulant activity and destruction of hyphae on leaf surface when infection is established. Limited Powdery Mildew activity.
  - Scala has up to 72 hours kickback (more at low temperatures). Good curative activity on existing infection. Robust rates (at least 0.75 l/ha) should be used as there is a known sensitivity shift to this fungicide and lower rates may not be effective. No Powdery Mildew activity.
- Not a big week for **Powdery Mildew** infection, but with some warmer and drier weather forecast, risk of secondary infection will be increasing. Cosine, Justice and Topas should be in the programme in orchards where mildew is a significant issue.
- Fruitlets in many varieties will be getting to suitable size to start to think about thinning with Exilis or Brevis. Temperatures do not look too promising for Exilis application this week in the East but may be possible in the West (18°C minimum with a rising trend is ideal). Fixor (NAA) must be applied before fruitlets get beyond 10 mm to avoid pygmy fruit in Gala and is less temperature dependent. Keep in touch with your agronomist on thinning options and timing. They have access to BreviSmart and RIMpro thinning models and are sharing thoughts in twice weekly conference calls, supported by Ton Besseling, Adama's global Brevis expert.
- With extension growth likely to be speeding up, look for migration of **Woolly Aphid** into fruit clusters and new growth. Batavia is still the best option, despite Woolly Aphid not being on the label when applied as a single dose of the maximum permitted 1.5 l/ha. You may want to delay if you have Mussel Scale to control (see below).
- The first **Mussel Scale** egg hatch (scales picture, right) is happening now, but you should apply an insecticide for control when maximum egg hatch has occurred. This may be 10-14 days away, possibly longer. Your agronomist can advise on optimum timing for an application of Batavia, Calypso, Envidor or Gazelle SG.
- Cider orchards are coming to petal fall, and will need control of **Apple Sawfly** where there was problem last season, or where monitoring traps have caught adults. Remember that Calypso has been known to cause some leaf scorch in Michelin and Harry Master's Jersey, so use Gazelle SG in orchards with those varieties.



## PEARS

- Many pear orchards need fruit numbers reducing. Conditions have not been suitable for using either Exilis or Brevis. They don't look very good for Exilis this week in Kent and experience with Brevis on pears in the UK is very limited so discuss with your agronomist about the merits of using Brevis and suitable rates and timing.
- After a cold wet week, Pear Sucker numbers remain under control, but you can be starting sprays of Epsom salts (Bittersalz) to reduce the stickiness in the trees.

## PLUMS

- Set looks adequate where orchards have not caught the frost. Where you have a crop, feed through the leaf and apply [nitrogen fertiliser to the soil](#).

## CHERRIES

- Winter Moth and other caterpillars are still being found in some orchards. Post-flowering options are limited to Hallmark Zeon and Pyrethrum 5EC (MAPP 12685 or 18210). Neither are predator friendly, so may exacerbate any Fruit Tree or Two Spotted Spider Mite problems, but they will give you some early Spotted Winged Drosophila control.
- Early indication on SWD numbers look higher than this time last year, although the variable weather conditions will have affected the speed of population development. If you are using insect-proof netting, the earlier you can get it up, the less likely you are to trap flies in the tunnels, but the harder it becomes to access with a sprayer. Hutchinsons can supply suitable netting to exclude SWD. We hope to hear soon about Emergency Authorisations for Exirel and Tracer.

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