

It's our people that make the difference

APPLES

- The Prognosfruit Conference in Poland last week received reports on the EU apple crop. Production is expected to be 36% up on last year, with Poland reporting a crop more than double the size of last year's. You can read a report on the apple forecasts [here](#).
- Codling Moth remains a threat to crops, with trap counts rising in many instances and the RIMpro model confirming that a second generation of the pest is happening this season.
- Pre-harvest fungicide sprays for long term stored fruit will be needed for Brown Rot from bird and Codling damaged fruit. After rain, scab risk is raised significantly and the presence of scab in dessert orchards remains a concern on too many farms. If scab is not a concern, then use Geoxe (3 day harvest interval) or where it is, then Bellis (7 day) or Switch (3 day). Whilst it has been dry, it may not be at harvest and you should do a rot risk assessment as outlined in the [AHDB Best Practice Guide](#).
- Colour development is variable. Where fruit are not shaded, colour is developing but growers have been reluctant to summer prune until now, to protect fruit against the heat of the sun. Options to improve colour include Wuxal Top P, Seniphos (if you need phosphorous and calcium), Sulis and Cerone (10 day harvest interval). Applications of [Cerone](#) should consider temperature to adjust dose rate and also the likely effect on picking dates and storability. Discuss with your agronomist.
- Picking dates are looking as early as last year, with significant volumes of Discovery already picked and many growers starting to pick it in earnest this week. Gala picking is always problematic, with starch patterns rapidly clearing once maturity is reached. The AHDB, as part of project TF 225, have funded work on a non-destructive method of determining maturity in Gala using chlorophyll fluorescence measurement. There is an article in the current edition of [AHDB Grower](#) magazine, the work was reported at the [AHDB Tree Fruit Day](#) in February and the project details can be found [here](#). In 2017, the technique predicted dates 80% starch would be reached, 7-10 days before that trigger point. This potentially gives growers advance warning allowing better planning and optimising of picking dates.
- Hutchinsons are continuing to develop the Fruit Vision technology for crop estimation and yield mapping, with the equipment being tested in orchards in Kent and the West Midlands over the next few weeks.

PEARS

- Prognosfruit reported an expected small increase in EU pear production, mainly due to a bigger Dutch crop. Read more [here](#).

PLUMS

- Picking of Victoria is now starting, but keep checking pheromone traps for late season varieties, as numbers of Plum Fruit Moth are still high in some orchards.
- Discuss post-harvest fungicide applications for rust and canker with your agronomist. As we reported last week, Cuprokyt has an [Emergency Authorisation](#) for use in stone fruit post-harvest.

CHERRIES

- With all but the very latest sites now finished picking, you should be taking the opportunity to prune trees, control spider mites and feed through fertigation (where available) and foliar feeds.

MISCELLANEOUS

- You can read a report from The English Apple Man on the 68th Goudhurst and Paddock Wood Orchard Competition [here](#). Congratulations to all the winners.