

It's our people that make the difference

STRAWBERRIES

- A lot of tunnel crops will start picking in earnest this week. Remember all the hygiene protocols for SWD. This is not the time of year for peak activity or damage, but the whole strategy with SWD control is about population management. If you are an AHDB levy-payer, you will have received an update on SWD last week. If you haven't read it, do it now.
- Batavia has now had its authorisation changed. It is now permitted for use up to 14 days before flowering or post-harvest. Its original authorisation for use in the dormant season only, was of no use to growers, as it is a highly systemic product which needs the plant to be actively growing. Unfortunately, Bayer had to print labels, so all product this season will have the original label on it. You can download the new label [here](#). Two applications are permitted on both outdoor and protected strawberries. The label states it is for the control of aphids and Tarsonemid Mite. It will also give useful control of Two-Spotted Spider Mite.
- Despite the loss of Systhane 20 EW this year, there remains a wide choice of Powdery Mildew fungicides. Make sure you are rotating modes of action and using some of the more recently approved products such as Charm, Luna Sensation and Justice, as well as the stalwarts such as Topas, Nimrod and Fortress. Don't forget, as we outlined last week, Corbel must not be used if it will leave a detectable residue (outdoor crops only), as the MRL is now the Limit of Determination (LOD).
- Thrips populations will be getting ready to take off unless you have enough predators in your crop. You should be topping up *Neoseiulus cucumeris* in everbearer crops and starting introductions in 60 day crops after they have been planted.

RASPBERRIES

- Raspberry Beetle traps should be out in crops now (adult pictured near right [image from Agralan Ltd]). Don't forget they can attack blackberry as well.
- Vine Weevil adults may start emerging soon in some crops (see far right). Calypso + Wetcit will give good control of adults, and where crops are to be over-wintered, you should be planning to apply nematodes from late summer/early autumn.



BLACKCURRANTS

- Recent wet weather will have increase *Botrytis* risk in flowering blackcurrants. Shorten spray interval to make sure that recently opened flowers are protected.
- Leaf curling midge is being found in shoot tips. This is not significant in mature plantations but an application of Movovento to non-cropping bushes will give control, as well as aphids and any incoming gall mite.
- A second flush of thistles is starting to get to the right stage for another treatment and this will also catch bindweed, which is now emerging.

BLUEBERRIES

- Outdoor crops are now flowering so make sure you have enough pollinators (more seeds = bigger fruits) and are applying a fungicide for *Botrytis* control.
- Brown scale (pictured right) are starting to feed on canes and lay eggs. If you have not treated yet with Calypso, you need to treat now before eggs are laid and the female dies.



MISCELLANEOUS

- BIFGA is holding its Annual General Meeting at Headcorn Aerodrome on Wednesday 27th June at 4.30 p.m. www.bifga.org.uk