

APPLES

It's our people that make the difference

- We are finding scab in dessert and culinary orchards which either have a history of scab or inadequate fungicide cover was maintained through the difficult weather conditions in April. Difference should be used to eradicate existing scab, and leaves and fruitlets should be protected with a strong scab product like Sercadis or Flint.
- Where Powdery Mildew has been inadequately controlled, it is possible to find some really strong primary infections. The weather forecast suggests a rise in temperatures towards the end of the week, and the risk of secondary infection will be rising. Topas, Cosine or Justice should all be featuring in your spray programmes.
- Apple Sawfly (adults caught on a trap circled in the picture, right) is predicted by the RIMpro model to be at peak egg hatch about now, so if you haven't applied Calypso or Gazelle SG around petal fall, you should be applying now. In cider orchards, the main varieties will be at petal fall later this week.
- Your petal fall spray will also control any remaining *Rhynchites* weevils, but they may have already done damage. The puncture holes in fruits at harvest are obvious. What you don't see, is the number of fruitlets which drop due to the female biting the stalk after laying an egg in the flower.
- Whilst no moth adults are being caught in traps, look carefully for Ermine Moth mines, and also they are starting to emerge from the mines and aggregate around flower clusters or shoot tips. They spin webs which make control much more difficult, so this is your last chance to get good control with Runner or Coragen. There are also some tortrix and Winter Moth caterpillars in places, either where a pre-bloom insecticide was not applied, or where control was compromised by weather conditions.
- Make a note of orchards affected by *Apple Blossom Weevil*. Control has not been as good as hoped this year. Timing sprays was very difficult with the cold weather for much of April. Discuss with your agronomist and plan for next year.
- Chemical fruitlet thinning will be on the agenda, with optimum timing for applications in some varieties not many days away. Many growers have good experience with the use of *Exilis/Maxcel* (6-BA), especially in combination with Fixor (NAA). It is a safe choice as even in ideal conditions (fruitlets 10-12 mm, temperature a minimum of 15°C, ideally 18°C and a rising trend for 2-3 days), you will not get any more than about 25% thinning effect. Remember if using Fixor, do not use after the 10 mm stage on Gala, as there is a risk of causing pygmy fruits. Applying Fixor early, and then *Exilis/Maxcel* when temperatures are better has been a successful strategy. The effectiveness of 6-BA drops off significantly past the 20 mm stage.
- *Brevis*, whilst an extremely effective thinner, has a lot of complications around its use. It is strongly affected by weather both before and after application. We have written a separate bulletin on fruitlet thinning which is being sent with this bulletin. Adama are developing a model to identify good 'windows' for application, both in terms of where thinning effect will be limited, and also where there is a risk of over thinning. We ran the model for a few sites last year and will do again this year and this will help to inform our agronomists advice to you.



PEARS

- Pear Bedstraw Aphid is more obvious in crops in Kent this year than usual. Calypso or Gazelle SG will give you the quickest control. *Batavia* is now approved in pears, and will control aphids as well as Pear Sucker nymphs
- *Brevis* or *Exilis* applications should be considered this week. Remember that *Maxcel* and *Fixor* are not approved for use on pears.
- Where there are heavy crops, feeding with nitrogen on the ground and also through the leaf, is very important.

PLUMS

- Plum Moth traps should be out.
- Two Spotted Spider Mite eggs and juveniles can be found now. Remember that the Masai MAPP 13082 can only be purchased until the end of June this year (12 month use-up). *Envidor* can be used as an alternative

CHERRIES

- Two Spotted Spider Mite is getting easier to find in orchards with a population. *Batavia* if applied for Black Cherry Aphid control will give incidental control. *Envidor* is your alternative. Both are only approved for outdoor use. Biocontrol is your only option under protection. Read the conclusions from AHDB work [here](#).
- If using *Batavia*, it is a slow acting, but very effective aphicide. Use *Calypso* or *Gazelle SG* if you need more rapid control.