

It's our people that make the difference

STRAWBERRIES

- With sunshine and warmth, in some places leaf is looking rather pale, because of the speed of shoot growth running ahead of root growth. Foliar feeding will be important and as fruits set and develop, ensure you are applying calcium (Calmax Ultra) to give good fruit firmness. More details on this product at www.omex.co.uk/product/calmax-ultra/
- There remain pockets of Two-Spotted Spider Mite and aphids. Biocontrol of spider mite should be well under way. There is good early parasitism of aphids by natural parasitic wasps where harmful insecticides have been avoided.
- Adult vine weevils are starting to emerge in some places.
- Pollen Beetle may move into flowers soon. Only if numbers get very high should action be necessary.
- Some wilting plants have been showing up due to the heat stressing plants with Crown Rot or Red Core.
- Blossom Weevil will now be on the agenda on early sites. Keep an eye out for the tell-tale symptoms of petal damage and/or the cut flower stalk (see right).



RASPBERRIES

- Powdery mildew is showing already in some tunnelled crops. Systhane or Nimrod are your eradicator options, alternated with Potassium Bicarbonate + Wetcit.
- Cane Midge traps should be out. With chlorpyrifos no longer an option, close monitoring is needed to make sure that timing of applications of Hallmark Zeon or Calypso are spot on. Don't forget you will need to allow time after insecticide treatment before you can introduce or re-introduce predators.
- As crops come into flower, apply foliar boron as it is associated with increased fruit size, where the nutrient is below optimal levels. Calcium applications will help fruit firmness.



BLACKCURRANTS

- Leaf Curling Midge has been found on early sites.
- Currant Sow Thistle Aphid has been found in Ben Gairn, Ben Lomond and Ben Starav.
- Winter Moth caterpillar numbers remain low but are becoming easier to find. Tortrix caterpillars can be found in rolled leaves in shoot tips and will be hard to control but unlikely to cause significant damage to the crop.
- Leaf spot has been found in Ben Lomond already.
- Gooseberry Sawfly larvae have been seen already so include a Calypso in your end of flowering spray round.

BLUEBERRIES

- Remember once crops are flowering you cannot use Explicit for caterpillar control because of its effect on bees.
- With continuing dry weather, make sure that crops are getting enough irrigation. Blueberries root in the top 40 cm of the soil so maintaining adequate moisture is vital.
- Final fruit size is enhanced by seed numbers, so ensuring good pollination is very important. Highbush blueberries have a receptive pollination period of about a week but fruit set is reduced significantly if pollination is delayed. Ensure you have adequate pollinating insects in your crops as the first flowers open.

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