

APPLES

It's our people that make the difference

- With Discovery picking now complete (sun scorch was a significant problem for some growers), and early varieties being picked (e.g. Red Windsor), attention is turning to picking dates for Cox and Gala. Starch iodine patterns are moving slowly at present, but always be careful with Gala, because as soon as they start moving significantly, they can drop quickly. You should not pick any Gala for long-term storage which has less than 70% black pattern. Cox on early sites may start picking by the weekend, but it is important that individual orchards are tested before any picking decisions are made.
- Late varieties such as Braeburn or Jazz may benefit from an application of Cerone for improving colour. You have to balance the effect of advancing maturity against applying it when there is sufficient daytime temperature for the active ingredient, ethephon, to be effective. Discuss rates and timings with your agronomist.
- Before applying a pre-harvest fungicide, you should carry out a **rot risk assessment**. Bellis has a 7 day harvest interval and Geoxe and Switch are 3 days.
- After the hot weather over the Bank Holiday weekend, **Water Core** is showing in Bramley and Cox. Storage regimes should be adjusted accordingly (i.e. do not place in ultra low oxygen regime).

PEARS

- It is anticipated that average sites will have reached a **Streif index** of 0.7 (the minimum for long-term storage) by the end of this week. You should not be picking before the Streif Index has reached 1.5 which may be the case on some late sites in the West.
- If using wooden bins, you should be lining them with plastic and topping them with a plastic sheet for long term store crops, as shrivel is more likely with the earliest pick.

PLUMS

- Rust is proving to be a significant issue in many orchards. Systhane 20 EW has been re-authorised for use in a number of fruit crops (e.g. see raspberry section, below), but unfortunately plums (as yet) is not one.

RASPBERRIES

- Rust is being found in some plantations (pictured, right). Systhane 20 EW has returned with a label for use on protected and outdoor raspberry (0.45 l/ha, maximum 3 applications, 14 day harvest interval). Product is expected into distributors in the next 7-10 days.
- Be on the look-out for Powdery Mildew in susceptible varieties. Weather conditions have been ideal for this disease over the last fortnight. There are no short harvest interval products other than potassium bicarbonate (no harvest interval) and Signum (3 days). Amylo X WG will give you some mildew protection, as well as *Botrytis* control.



MISCELLANEOUS

- Hutchinsons will be at the **East Kent Ploughing Match** on 25th September and the **National Fruit Show** on 23rd and 24th October at the Kent Event Centre near Maidstone. Find us on Stand K21.
- We are planning our annual winter NROSO spray operator training events and will write to previous attendees with details when dates and venues are finalised. They will also be posted on our website www.hlhlt.co.uk where you will also be able to book a place online.

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