

APPLES

It's our people that make the difference

- There is an East-West split again this week, although unusually, the West looks drier and warmer than the East. Rain is forecast for the South East during the week, and so adequate scab cover will be important.
- In the warmer drier areas Powdery Mildew will definitely be moving up the priority list. Topas, Cosine and Justice will all add to mildew control from scab products such as Flint, Fontelis, Sercadis and Stroby WG.
- Sawfly sprays should be applied if not already in dessert orchards. Cider orchards are coming towards the end of flowering, so an insecticide should be applied. Remember that some varieties (e.g. Michelin, Harry Master's Jersey) can have some leaf scorch with Calypso, so consider Gazelle SG as an alternative.
- Conditions look favourable this week for applications of 6-BA (Exilis and Maxcel). Fixor (NAA) should be applied before Gala gets past the 10 mm king fruit stage and this can be applied before you apply 6-BA, which can be delayed for suitable weather conditions at 10-14 mm. The set is becoming a bit clearer, and especially in Kent, the indifferent weather in April has resulted in a variable set. There are decisions to be made and if you plan to apply Brevis, please discuss with your Hutchinsons agronomist. Also read carefully the contents of our thinning bulletin issued last week.
- Ermine moth are still emerging from their mines (pictured, right) but are also starting to aggregate in shoot tips and flower clusters. Once they are 'webbed up' it becomes much harder to control them, so apply Runner or Coragen as soon as possible.
- The RIMpro Codling Moth Model suggests that the first flight of females may start this week on the earliest sites, so if you haven't put out your pheromone traps, do so.
- Mussel Scale should reach 90% emergence on most sites this week, so you should be planning to target the emerged crawlers. Calypso, Gazelle SG, Envidor and Batavia all have good activity. The choice of product may depend on other pests in the orchard to give you the best control of the pest complex.



PEARS

- There are some hot spots of Pear Sucker showing in some orchards now.
- Crops are starting to thin and crop load is becoming apparent. Where there was good flower, there seem to be good crops.

PLUMS

- Set looks strong in many orchards, so trees can be pruned to reduce crop load. Make sure any Silver Leaf affected branches are pruned out and disinfect your pruning equipment between trees.
- Early sites are catching Plum Fruit Moth in pheromone traps. Threshold for a full crop is 50 in a week, for a light crop 30. As with Codling Moth, it is the later attacks which are the most damaging.

CHERRIES

- Set in Kent may be less than hoped for. Elsewhere it looks more promising.
- With a warm week forecast, make sure tunnels are vented and monitor soil moisture status for irrigation if you have it.
- Black Cherry Aphid hotspots can still be found.
- Spotted Wing Drosophila monitoring should be in place. You should also be planning control measures, including insect proof netting which is available through Hutchinsons.
- Don't forget to enter the Cherry Show at the Kent Show in July. Entry details can be found [here](#).

MISCELLANEOUS

- The East Kent Fruit Society are having a Stone Fruit Walk at G H Dean, Hempstead Farm, Tonge on 3rd July at 5.00 p.m. Details from Tracey Rose traceyrose7@btinternet.com