

*It's our people that make the difference*

## STRAWBERRIES

- Two Spotted Spider Mite populations are rising where predator populations have not kept up. Increase introductions of *Phytoseiulus persimilis*, or if you have to use an acaricide, be aware of the immediate side effects and the period that must elapse before you can re-introduce predators. The Koppert Side Effects Database is a useful source of information <https://sideeffects.koppert.com/>
- A reminder that the final sale date for Pyrethrum 5EC with an 'all edible crops label' was 31<sup>st</sup> May. The product is still available but only for use on glasshouse fruiting vegetables. The final use date for Dynamec/Clayton Abba for use in temporary protection was also 31<sup>st</sup> May. You can now only use it on glasshouse strawberry crops. If you have any Masai left in stock (MAPP 13082) it needs to be used up by the end of this month.
- Strawberry Blossom Weevil numbers continue to rise. This pest can be particularly damaging in 60 day crops, so be vigilant and apply Calypso to control it.

## RASPBERRIES

- *Cladosporium* infection is now showing up in early raspberry tunnels. Serenade ASO provides some control (Amylo X WG can only be used in glasshouse crops) but also make sure you have sufficient pollinating bees to take the nectar which may help to reduce this problem in future.
- Raspberry Beetle will be coming in significant numbers now in raspberry and blackberry crops.
- With adult Vine Weevils being found in crops, it will not be long before egg laying will occur. The 'little and often' approach to nematode applications has proved a successful strategy and Hutchinsons can supply BASF nematodes direct from our own cold storage facility. Discuss strategy and choice of product with your agronomist. Don't forget to add Transformer to get improved water movement into the substrate.

## BLACKCURRANTS

- Consider pre harvest *Botrytis* cover where there is significant risk. Focus on the most susceptible varieties (Baldwin, Dorain, Hope and Gairn), especially if the crop is heavy and branches likely to collapse.
- Keep an eye on Septoria Leaf spot in Hope and Lomond.
- Look out for Sawfly caterpillars, which normally make an appearance in June.
- There are some very heavy crops of gooseberry this year (pictured, right) so make sure they get suitable protection against Powdery Mildew, Botrytis and pigeons.



## BLUEBERRIES

- Moth populations seem particularly high this season, so keep crops closely monitored for caterpillars as well as maintaining pheromone traps for Light Brown Apple Moth and Carnation Tortrix Moth.
- As with raspberries, a good Vine Weevil monitoring and control strategy is very important. Good application is essential and experience has shown over the years that application via the irrigation system is not satisfactory unless drippers are placed next to the crown of the plant.

## MISCELLANEOUS

- The AHDB are holding a meeting on 'Growing Media Developments in Soft Fruit Production' in Staffordshire on 26<sup>th</sup> June. More details and a booking form can be found [here](#).
- The Fungicide Resistance Action Group UK (FRAG-UK) has just published a comprehensive document on 'Fungicide Resistance Management in Soft Fruit'. It contains detailed advice and guidance on minimising the risks of resistance, as well as a review of the current resistance situation in the UK. You can download the document [here](#).
- We extend our best wishes to Harriet Prosser at LRS, who returns to work after maternity leave.

Further information please contact Jonathan Blackman: 07774 738213. [jonathan.blackman@hlhld.co.uk](mailto:jonathan.blackman@hlhld.co.uk)  
H.L.Hutchinson Ltd., Weasenham Lane, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, PE13 2RN.

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