

**APPLES***It's our people that make the difference*

- Scab continues to be found in dessert and culinary orchards where cover has been inadequate. Given that scab is not being found in most cider apple orchards, this suggests that the disease got hold early in the season or that secondary conidial infection is a significant source of inoculum in affected orchards. The focus tends to be on primary ascospore infection in the spring, but after a mild winter and in orchards which had scab last year, early season conidial infection can be very significant. Diference has good eradicant activity. The 56 day harvest interval on Scala should not be a problem on all but the earliest harvesting varieties.
- **Woolly Aphid** is now starting to increase rapidly and with **Mussel Scale** now likely to be fully hatched out (we are already finding crawlers on fruits), then an application of Batavia will be essential. The label rate of 1.5 l/ha gives reduced control compared with the higher rates permitted for the Emergency Authorisation for Movento Top in 2017.
- **Powdery Mildew** has enjoyed some warm and humid weather so you should be targeting this disease and ensuring during the current period of rapid extension growth, that new leaves are protected.
- **Codling Moth** catches have reached threshold on some sites and the RIMpro Codling Moth model indicates that some egg laying will have occurred over the weekend. You should be aiming to apply an insecticide as eggs get near to hatching which is usually 7-10 days after egg laying. The interval between egg laying and egg hatch can be estimated by accumulating percentage egg development calculated from daily maximum and minimum air temperature. You can download the table [here](#). First egg hatch is expected when the accumulated sum reaches 100%. Early indications suggest that Codling pressure could be very high this season, so it is important to monitor pheromone traps if you are using RAK 3+4 because it may break down if you have very high numbers of moths in orchards, and you then would have to apply a spray to ensure there is no significant pest damage.

**PEARS**

- Pear Sucker eggs are getting easier to find, but where Batavia has already been applied, control looks good.
- Crops are thinning out after a strong initial set, but crops vary from looking lighter than expected through to some requiring hand thinning, especially where clusters of pears are on the ends of branches.

**PLUMS**

- Plum Fruit Moth catches dropped in cooler conditions, but some sites have reached threshold (50 moths per week, or 30 if there is a light crop). Runner is the best option for control. Emergency Authorisations are expected for Exirel 10 SE and Tracer for SWD control and these will incidentally control Plum Fruit Moth as well.
- At this time, you can find orchards with Pocket Plum in them. This is caused by *Taphrina pruni* and some varieties are particularly susceptible (Swan shown, right). Copper sprays applied prior to bud burst are the only really effective control. Otherwise remove and destroy the affected fruits. Also check nearby damson or sloe trees for 'Witches Brooms' which will be a source of infection and prune them out if practicable.

**CHERRIES**

- Exirel 10 SE received an Emergency Authorisation last week for use on outdoor crops and under temporary rain covers. Note that the maximum rate is now 0.75 l/ha and the maximum number of applications remains two. The authorisation for Tracer is expected this week. We have already found SWD eggs laid in green fruits, and populations appear to be higher than this time last year, so a protective spray programme will need to be under way now.
- Nut Scale is an occasional pest in cherry (scales pictured, right). The females overwinter on the wood, feed in early spring, and then lay eggs under their protective scales. At this stage, there are just eggs under the scales. These will hatch in about a month and can be controlled at this stage. Alternatively, the females can be controlled in April before they lay eggs. Calypso, Gazelle SG, Batavia and Envidor will all control the crawlers, but the first two are best to control the females in early spring.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

- We are pleased to welcome Ivan Velasco to our team. Ivan is based in Kent but will continue to advise growers in other fruit growing areas, as well as the South East. If you would like to contact Ivan, please email [ivan.velasco@hlhlt.co.uk](mailto:ivan.velasco@hlhlt.co.uk)
- As we enter a new BASIS year, the CPD reference for these notes has been updated (see below)

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This Bulletin has been awarded 2 CPD points from BASIS Registration Ltd (Ref. CP/84139/1920/g) and 2 CPD points from the National Register of Spray Operators (Ref.NO466521f)

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