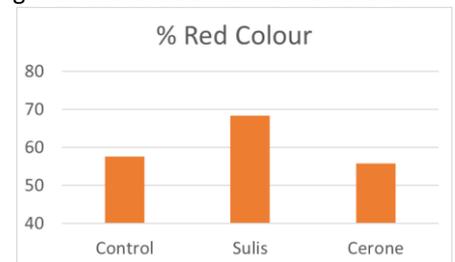


APPLES

It's our people that make the difference

- Predicted picking dates are looking very similar to 2017. However, with bigger crops on trees and the prolonged dry spell, fruit size is not quite as good as last year. You may still have to re-assess crop load on trees and thin off anything that won't make 55 mm at harvest. For Cox and Gala, this means they will have to be 45-50 mm this week.
- Colour is developing in most varieties where they are exposed to light. Anything that is shaded is less coloured and may require summer pruning to get light to them, or if they are on the under side of a branch, the fruit may be usefully removed, especially if crop load is too high. You can improve colour in fruits shaded by the canopy by using a reflective mulch, for example **Lumilys** (available from Hutchinsons). Applications of Sulis can be made from 4 weeks before picking. Cerone can also be used to improve colour, especially in late picking varieties (10 day harvest interval) but be careful with rates as the effect is highly temperature dependent. Data from a 2017 trial on Jazz can be seen in the graph (right).
- After rain last weekend, some young trees (pictured, right) or orchards which have had late mechanical pruning, are showing signs of starting some extension growth. Make sure those new leaves are at least protected for Powdery Mildew, even if it is some sulphur if you have used up all your applications of Topas (3 applications with a 21 day harvest interval), Cosine (2 with 14 days) or Justice (2 with 49 days).
- Last applications of Captan will have been made in many instances (31 day harvest interval) and so you need to discuss pre-harvest applications of fungicides for storage rots. Where scab is present, then applying Bellis or Switch pre-harvest will be essential.
- We are starting to see catches of second generation Codling Moth in pheromone traps and RIMpro predicts significant egg laying activity in the next week. Explicit and Tracer have 7 day harvest intervals but are in short supply due to high demand from brassica growers. Dipel DF applied at high volume would be an option with a 1 day harvest interval. It will be particularly important to protect later season varieties.
- Second flight of Summer Fruit Tortrix can be expected soon, so make sure your traps have fresh sticky cards and pheromone lures in them. This pest has started to be found in the West Midlands, having been confined to the south and east, so it is worth having a trap out.
- Keep checking orchards for Fruit Tree Red Spider Mite and Rust Mite. There are some young orchards where there are limited numbers of predatory mites that could yet need treatment before harvest.



PEARS

- Late Codling Moth attack is a risk, so make sure your lures are fresh and check traps, weekly at least.
- We are seeing some pear orchards where the trees are suffering from the heat and dry conditions (pictured, right). Biostimulants such as Cultigrow CBL, Maxicrop Triple or Megafol will help to alleviate the stress effects by stimulating the tree's own mechanisms for coping with abiotic stress.
- Picking dates will certainly be early, but you should be starch iodine testing soon, as Conference often does not reach 100% starch pattern, so you need to determine the maximum cover.



PLUMS

- Victoria picking is imminent and Plum Fruit Moth numbers are now starting to dip significantly and are well below threshold in most instances, but not all, so keep traps checked.
- Despite the dry conditions, some Brown Rot can be found in orchards where birds have pecked fruits or some other damage has occurred.

CHERRIES

- An Emergency Authorisation has been issued for Cuprokylt for use on cherry, plum and apricot for the control of Bacterial Canker. You can download it [here](#) and it expires on 28th November 2018.

MISCELLANEOUS

- The Prognosfruit Conference is in Warsaw, Poland this week where initial crop estimates for the northern hemisphere apple and pear crops will be published. More details at www.prognosfruit.eu