

It's our people that make the difference

STRAWBERRIES

- Remain vigilant for capsids (we are finding adults and nymphs in crops), Two Spotted Spider Mites, Tarsonemid Mites (especially in second year everbearer crops) and keep your thrips population carefully monitored. Intensive fungicide applications for mildew also knocks the *Neoseiulus cucumeris* populations, so top-up applications may be considered. Where *Orius* populations have been established, excellent Western Flower Thrips control has been achieved. The secret to good biocontrol is regular monitoring of pest numbers, so that you can assess if numbers are rising and increase beneficial introductions as a result.
- When we get to this stage of the season with second year everbearer crops in substrate, the nutritional balance in the substrate may not be ideal. There may be a build-up of unwanted salts such as sodium and chloride. Using Gyp-Flo through the irrigation system has helped to flush out these unwanted salts which have accumulated during periods of high temperatures, and restore the correct nutrient balance and the desired EC figures. More details from your agronomist or www.ultrasoilsolutions.co.uk

RASPBERRIES

- Wild blackberries can be a source of SWD (larva pictured right in a fruit picked from a hedgerow). They may be a better monitor than traps at this stage of the season, but ideally you should try to minimise the number of brambles near your crops.
- Once main season crops have had old floricanes removed, then you should be looking to apply fungicides to protect next year's cane against diseases. If you are unsure what you are looking for, then discuss with your agronomist and also levy payers can download the AHDB Factsheet <http://bit.ly/2uaddu9>
- *Phytophthora* can be identified now in plantations. Look for canes with dying leaves, purple stems and wilting tips (pictured, right).



BLACKCURRANTS

- Growers who have just harvested Ben Avon, Alder or Tirran should be thinking about *Phomopsis*, which is still incompletely understood, but circumstantially appears to be infecting stem base cracks, probably after harvest in stress conditions when callusing is slow, particularly in dry years. There is a strong association with patches of poorer soils and it's never been observed in the wetter conditions and good soils in Scotland. FERA work has shown, in the laboratory, that Serenade ASO is very effective at inhibiting growth of the *Phomopsis* fungus.

BLUEBERRIES

- Exirel 10 SE has received an emergency authorisation for SWD control on outdoor blueberries. You can download the authorisation document at <http://bit.ly/2vIPXNn>
- Bushes are starting their late season growth, which will provide useful fruiting wood for next season. Make sure they are suitably well fed (e.g. Solufeed Blueberry Special through the irrigation), although do not continue nitrogen feeding beyond the end of this month, or you will have soft shoot tips which will be susceptible to winter damage.

MISCELLANEOUS

- AHDB have issued a further warning indicating that a significant rise in SWD numbers can be expected over the next 2 months with strawberry, raspberry, blackberry and blueberry all at risk. For levy payers the latest advice can be downloaded at <http://bit.ly/2pDBzdz>

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