

It's our people that make the difference

STRAWBERRIES

- Early capsid activity is still being found in crops (leaf damage pictured, right). If you haven't started your biocontrol programme then you can use Hallmark Zeon, but if predators have been introduced, then Plenum applied for aphids will give some incidental control of capsid.
- Where Batavia has been applied, it is taking some time for it to control aphids. Remember this is not a quick knockdown product and it works best when plants are growing and aphids are feeding. Given the weather in some areas, this will not have been the case this last week, so show some patience as it will get there in the end.
- With tunnels closed up to keep the heat in, humidity will be raised, and with the odd sunny spell, good conditions for Powdery Mildew infection could occur, especially in second year crops where disease may have over-wintered in the crown of the plant. Vent when you can, and make sure you are protecting new growth with a mildew fungicide.
- If you have thistle or dandelion to control in outdoor crops, apply [Dow Shield 400](#) before flower trusses emerge.



RASPBERRIES

- Monitor shoot tips in emerging primocane for signs of sawfly activity.
- With flowers emerging soon in outdoor crops, you should be applying *Botrytis* controls.
- Check for any further Vine Weevil damage as it may be necessary to make additional nematode applications. Note that Nemasys L now has an [extended shelf life](#) and we continue to supply product from our own cold storage facility direct to your farm.

BLACKCURRANTS

- You should have completed your sulphur applications for Gall Mite control on early varieties in the southern half of Britain. Peak mite emergence can be expected this week, so mid-season and late varieties should be getting further applications.
- Check plantations for Winter Moth and apply an insecticide before flowering if necessary.
- As crops come into flower, fungicide should be applied for *Botrytis* but also don't forget Leaf Spot control.
- Aphids are being found as well, including Blister Aphid, so look to apply controls before flowering.
- Gooseberries are at full flower. Keep an eye out for aphids, sawfly eggs and capsids. Calypso will deal with all three pests. Continue foliar feeding together with Powdery Mildew and *Botrytis* control.

BLUEBERRIES

- Check crops for caterpillar activity, especially Winter Moth, but first generation Tortrix caterpillars may be found too.
- Brown scale nymphs can be found now in protected crops. Calypso is very effective but often a single application is not enough, as the pest occurs in overlapping generations and it will not control any eggs under scales.
- You should be applying a fungicide for *Botrytis* control during flowering. Options are Scala, Serenade ASO, Signum, Switch and Teldor. All can be used outdoors and under protection.

MISCELLANEOUS

- You should have SWD traps out in your crops and in nearby potential over-wintering sites. This will give you warning of the likely magnitude of the problem this year. Safe to say, after a mild, dry winter, it is likely that they will be a bigger problem than last year, unless we have very hot dry conditions this summer.

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