

APPLES

It's our people that make the difference

- After another mixed week for weather, there have been significant scab infection periods in all regions, some of higher significance than predicted but also vice versa. For dessert apples, which are anywhere between green cluster and pink bud, depending on variety, there is now lots of green tissue. Use of Scala is a near universal necessity, especially with more rain forecast early in the week. Difference will not work well in the cool temperatures prevalent at present. Rain-fastness and the ability to re-distribute within expanding green tissue makes an SDHI (Fontelis or Sercadis) or alternatively Flint, good choices for a protectant partner for Scala. In addition, all of these fungicides have very effective mildew protectant activity.
- Main season cider varieties now have green tissue, and their scab programmes should be underway. After frost (and in some instances snow!), foliar feed will help the bud and emerging leaves. **Headland Complex** with Maxicrop Triple or **Maxicrop Xtra-Fol** alone would be good choices, switching the seaweed to **Kelpak** as we get to bloom.
- If you have some Kindred left (it is no longer available for sale) then you must get it on before the end of flowering (final use date is 29th February 2020). If you want some curative Powdery Mildew action, then **Cosine** and **Topas** are options, but would generally prefer warmer temperatures to be most effective. You can start with Justice at the end of flowering when extension growth starts, as its systemic activity gives excellent control of secondary mildew.
- **Rosy Apple Aphid** is showing in many dessert and culinary orchards, so pre-bloom control should be applied. If you have used Calypso for Blossom Weevil control, then that will have given some control (maximum 2 two applications per season). Other options are **Gazelle SG** or **Mainman**. Both Calypso and Gazelle SG will give control of any **Rhynchites** weevils that may be in the trees.
- Winter and Tortrix Moths can be found in many orchards, probably more than average thanks to a mild winter. Explicit can be applied but not once pollinators are active in the orchards, so **Runner** is an alternative if you have flowers open.
- As discussed last week, gibberellin applications can start from pink bud. Unfortunately **Promalin** (GA₄₊₇ + 6-BA) is not going to be commercially available this season, but trial material is available via your agronomist.

PEARS

- Parts of the West Midlands had temperatures as low as -4°C last week, but most pears were only at late white bud or first open flower. Pear bud generally looks very strong so we don't want the crop to over-set, but it is suggested in advice from Belgium that if flower is frosted with a strong bloom present that a half rate Novagib or Regulex SG should be applied. If blossom is not so plentiful, then you may need to consider application of GA₃ (Florgib Tablet or Gibb 3) or Regalis Plus.
- Winter Moth is also showing in pears (damage and the culprits shown right). **Runner** would be the insecticide of choice at this stage.
- Pear Sucker development has been slowed by the colder weather but populations will develop once we get some prolonged warmer weather.



PLUMS

- Early last week there were some hours when bees were flying and pollination would have occurred. However, in the cool conditions that followed, pollen tube development would have been slow, so it is difficult to tell how effectively ovules have been fertilised and what the actual set will have been.
- If you didn't get an aphicide on before flowering, then you should apply Calypso or Gazelle SG at petal fall. This will also control any Plum Sawfly that may be present. Apply a Brown Rot fungicide at the same time.

CHERRIES

- Crops could have had better conditions for white bud/early flowering (orchard in Herefordshire on Thursday last week pictured. Photo: Haygrove). Good pollination and fertilisation is vital to set a crop, so in addition to making sure you have enough bumblebees in the crop, use **Kelpak** to **help pollen tube development** and **MegaFol** to amplify the plant's own anti-stress mechanisms.
- **Gibb 3** has an EAMU for use on outdoor cherry up to the end of flowering. This can help set.



MISCELLANEOUS

- This year's BIFGA Spring Farm Walk is at Howt Green Farm, Bobbing on 8th May, by kind permission of A.C. Goatham & Son. Details will be posted on the [BIFGA website](#) if you haven't received them already by email.

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