

It's our people that make the difference

STRAWBERRIES

- Current weather conditions are very challenging both for growing the crop and protecting against pest and disease, but also picking and harvest management. Conflicts are arising, especially where you are trying to maintain or enhance predator populations for thrips control (especially *Orius*), when at the same time capsid and/or SWD controls may be a priority too.
- Blossom Weevil is still active, and damage can be found in everbearer crops (pictured, near right).
- The stressful conditions are making Crown Rot symptoms appear rapidly (affected plant shown, far right). Make sure recent plantings are protected by applications of Paraat or Fenomenal.
- For those of you growing in the soil, you will be pleased to know that chloropicrin has received another 120 day emergency approval for use this autumn up until 26th October. Contact Custodian Trading for more details.



RASPBERRIES

- Heat damage to fruits is now becoming apparent. It is important that this fruit is removed as hygiene for SWD control will become vital as we move through this month and into August.
- The bio-insecticide **Botanigard WP** has just received an **AMU** for use on outdoor and protected crops of raspberry, blackberry and Rubus hybrids. Its main target pests are Two Spotted Spider Mite and Glasshouse Whitefly, but it can also give useful control of aphids. It is compatible with use with predatory mites. It is very important to use it correctly to get the best results and there are several videos to help you [here](#).

BLACKCURRANTS

- Ben Gairn is harvesting well, with generally high Brix, and in some places breaking records.
- Look out for pockets of Two Spotted Spider Mite and earmark plantations for post-harvest treatment.
- Thoughts can be turning to post-harvest treatments. Leaf Spot protection will be important as bushes become more susceptible after they have been bashed by the harvester. Rust should not be overlooked. It's a dry weather disease to which varieties like Hope and Dorain are very susceptible.
- Unless it rains, very dry soil will inhibit the utilisation of any ground-applied nitrogen. Research in Norway has underlined the importance of post-harvest nutrition in flower initiation and improving carbohydrate reserves. A balanced foliar feed such as Headland Complex perhaps with some added potassium such as Solupotasse would be worthwhile. Nitrogen alone is unlikely to achieve the best results.

BLUEBERRIES

- Picking will be underway on later outdoor sites soon. Remember the importance of hygiene as part of your SWD control strategy. It is difficult in this crop as it is inevitable that some fruit will end up on the floor but following all the advice set out on the [AHDB website](#) is important. You will not manage populations by chemical controls alone.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Don't forget the two important trade events this month. **Fruit for the Future** is at the James Hutton Institute on 19th July and **Fruit Focus** is at NIAB EMR on 25th July.
- Congratulations to A J & C I Snell on becoming a LEAF Demonstration Farm. BBC Radio 4 also featured the farm on Farming Today This Week. You can catch up [here](#) and the programme has focussed on soft fruit production all last week.