

APPLES

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- Some very lively primary Powdery Mildew shoots remain, especially in young orchards. Infection risk is very high and removing these shoots will reduce inoculum. As terminal buds form, make sure they are protected against secondary mildew infection.
- As hand thinning is ongoing, fruit scab continues to be found. When (if?) it rains in the lead up to harvest, it will be important to provide some protection to the fruits with Bellis or Switch. Whilst scab risk is negligible at present, applying captan now will put some protection on new leaves and especially fruits, and with a 31 day harvest interval, we only have a few weeks left before it will be too late to apply.
- Established trees are holding up well in the current hot and dry conditions. The species is native to Central Asia, and so is adapted to cope with conditions like this. There has also been sufficient moisture at depth on most soil types to keep the trees adequately supplied with water. This may change over the next week or two if no rain falls. Water use may not be as high as you imagine, as in the heat of the day, trees will actually close their stomata to prevent transpiration losses. However, it does mean that tree metabolism will be slowed, and we are seeing terminal buds being set, especially on heavier cropping trees. Clearly if you have irrigation, it should be used, to keep soil moisture at an optimum level, but other actions you should consider include use of biostimulants (e.g. Cultigrow CBL, Maxicrop Triple, Megafol) which help to enhance the tree's own mechanisms to cope with heat and moisture stress. Cultigrow CBL will also help fruit colour development and has produced very encouraging results in [trials](#) at NIAB EMR (coded as AHDB 9910).
- Orchards planted this year will need careful attention, and if they do not have irrigation, some watering may be needed very soon. Also check them carefully for Rust Mite and Fruit Tree Red Spider Mite and treat if necessary (Envidor or Masai). If you are summer pruning, put prunings in the new trees to transfer Typhs and other predatory mites into the new orchard.
- Whilst it is tempting to 'shut the gate' in cider orchards, you must still watch for any build up of mite pests, and if there is active Powdery Mildew in orchards, the new growth needs to remain protected.
- Pheromone traps are still catching plenty of Codling Moth and Tortrix species. The hot weather may be shortening the life of the lures, so perhaps change them a week or so earlier than planned. Also, chemicals are degraded quicker, so don't stretch your intervals between insecticide applications or you may have a gap in cover.
- Woolly Aphid continues to migrate onto extension growth, with orchards that appeared to need no treatment a month ago, now in need of an application of Batavia. Fortunately, many orchards also have good levels of parasitism by the wasp *Aphelinus mali*. It is easy to spot as the aphid mummies are black (pictured, right). Do not delay in applying the Batavia as it needs the trees to be actively growing for best effect, and with the hot weather, extension growth is slowing down and terminal buds being formed.



PEARS

- Pear Sucker remains problematic in some orchards, but where Batavia has been applied, control has been good and we are also seeing levels of predators rising. Don't mow grass alleys too tight, as some flowering plants in them will also attract predators, and longer grass actually removes less water than a short sward.

PLUMS

- Plum Fruit Moth catches remain high, so you should make sure you have continuing cover. You can apply a maximum of two applications of Runner (14 day harvest interval), but Tracer and Exirel 10 SE (both 7 day harvest intervals) have Emergency Authorisations for SWD control and will control caterpillar pests as well.

CHERRIES

- SWD numbers have been lower this season but don't drop your guard, as they could increase rapidly and affect your mid- and late-season varieties. If you are applying weekly sprays, you should alternate between Tracer and Exirel as both approvals require 10 days between consecutive applications.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Read about our recently planted HELIOS trials orchards in an article [here](#). We will be telling you more about them over the next 12-24 months.