

Come and see us at the National Fruit Show on Stand K19

STRAWBERRIES

- Nemasys-L is effective down to temperatures of 5 °C and therefore you still have time to treat plantations affected by Vine Weevil. Trials have shown that the use of Transformer in soil grown and substrate grown crops will help to move the water better into the pores of the growing medium, getting more of the nematodes close to the Vine Weevil larvae.
- If you are thinking about trying to reduce the slug populations this autumn, please follow all the stewardship advice when applying metaldehyde products or use the equally effective ferric phosphate products such as Iroxx. Once again, responsible use of metaldehyde this autumn is critical to its continued availability. www.getpelletwise.co.uk
- If *Botrytis* is present in crowns, then crown thinning this late in the season may not increase the quality of fruit buds in June bearers, but it will allow more air circulation next spring. Plan to apply high volume 'clean up' sprays early next season for any over-wintered crop. Remember that Rovral WG is no longer available, and whilst official revocation notices have not been issued yet, it is understood you will have until the end of January 2019 to use up your stocks.
- If you can find Strawberry Aphid or Shallot Aphid in outdoor crops, then it will be worth applying an insecticide before the weather gets much colder and Calypso would be a suitable choice. In tunnelled crops which still have a population of Potato Aphid post-harvest, Calypso will not be as effective as this species does not feed much at lower temperatures, so Hallmark Zeon may be worth considering, making sure you get the spray right into the crown of the plant.
- If you have any unopened packs of Benevia 10 OD, and you will not be using them, then they must be returned to the distributor before the authorisation expiry date of 12th December.

RASPBERRIES

- If you have any unopened packs of Exirel 10 SE, then please return them to distributors before the authorisation expiry date of 4th December.
- You should be assessing plantations for cane diseases at this time of year. The AHDB Factsheet which will help you distinguish between Cane *Botrytis*, Spur Blight and Cane Blight can be found at <http://bit.ly/2dxu7jb>
- If you use tebuconazole for cane disease control, be aware that Deacon (MAPP 14270) is no longer available but can be used until April 2018. Folicur has an EAMU, but this only permits one application at 0.43 l/ha up to the end of flowering, and one application post-harvest at 0.36 l/ha. However, Folicur is currently not available from the manufacturer.
- Maincrop raspberries should have had a *Phytophthora* root rot prevention treatment plus vine weevil treatment if needed. It is important that raspberries which are still being picked, have SL567A or Paraat applied before the covers come down and irrigation is switched off for the winter.
- Kerb Flo for annual and perennial weed control can be applied later in October/November. A drop in soil temperature of 10 °C doubles the half-life of the product, so apply when soil temperatures have dropped, when the surface is moist, and weeds are still active.

BLACKCURRANTS

- If you are going to treat plantations for returning aphids, the window is now. With Aphox no longer authorised, Calypso is your choice.
- Avoid the temptation to use glyphosate as an autumn weed clean-up, unless you have suitable application equipment to keep it away from the bushes and you have pruned out any broken branches flopping into the alleys, otherwise you will probably see damage symptoms next spring.

BLUEBERRIES

- Unopened packs of Exirel 10 SE should be returned to distributors before 1st December, when the Emergency Authorisation expires.
- Applications of Signum or Switch may help to prevent infection by *Phomopsis*. Remove canes damaged by picking operations now, as they may be a site of entry for the disease.
- Check pots for Vine Weevil larvae and treat with Nemasys-L as outlined in the strawberry section above.

MISCELLANEOUS

- The AHDB/EMR Association Soft Fruit Day is at NIAB EMR on 21st November. More details and how to book at <http://bit.ly/2x1NTqN>

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