

*Come and see us at the National Fruit Show on Stand K21*

## 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](http://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.
- 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. Batavia is likely to be of limited effectiveness when the plant is not actively growing and would be better used as an early spray in the spring, before flowering.
- Koppert have published a guide to using bumblebees in artificially lit crops. You can download a copy [here](#).

## RASPBERRIES

- You should be assessing plantations for cane diseases at this time of year. The [AHDB Factsheet](#) will help you distinguish between Cane **Botrytis**, Spur Blight and Cane Blight.
- Kerb Flo for annual and perennial weed control can be applied 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. Calypso is your product of choice.

## BLUEBERRIES

- Check pots for Vine Weevil larvae and treat with Nemasys L as outlined in the strawberry section above.

## MISCELLANEOUS

- Come and see us at the National Fruit Show on Stand K21. Don't forget we supply growing media (coir, peat and bark, loose or in grow bags), pots, canes and various other sundries for soft fruit growing, so come and talk to us about them.
- Our colleagues from [Produce Packaging](#) will also be on the stand and can talk about their range of non-plastic packaging.
- The DEFRA consultation on the AHDB closes on the 9<sup>th</sup> November. If you have not yet completed the questionnaire and put forward your views, you can do so [here](#).

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