

*It's our people that make the difference*

## STRAWBERRIES

- A sunny week will have increased the risk of Powdery Mildew in tunnels. Keep your eyes open for early signs of infection. In Malling Centenary, mildew often shows as pink tinges on the flowers. A cold start to this week will mean you will be closing up tunnels to protect the crop, which will increase *Botrytis* risk. The crop does have a wide range of choices of fungicides to control both these diseases, most with 3 day harvest intervals or less. Be careful if you have outdoor crops as some of the more recent approvals have different harvest intervals. For example, Systhane 20 EW has a 3 day harvest interval under protection, but 14 days outdoors.
- Foliar sprays for fruit quality are very important in the run up to your first picks. **Calmax Ultra** will improve the firmness of fruit. The big change of temperature over the weekend may stress the plants, so apply **Megafof** amino acid biostimulant to help the plants cope with the change.

## RASPBERRIES

- Raspberry Leaf Blotch Virus symptoms will be obvious in plantation. (symptoms pictured, right) with Glen Ample being the most affected variety. **Raspberry Leaf and Bud Mite** is the vector for the virus, but only incomplete control of the mite can be achieved by use of predatory mites. Dynamec/Clayton Abba can be used in glasshouse crops.
- Capsid nymphs and damage to shoot tips is being seen. Choice of an effective insecticide is impossible if you are using biocontrols, as all options are broad spectrum. Calypso is probably your compromise choice but you would often want to keep it for Raspberry Beetle control.



## BLACKCURRANTS

- Leaf Curling Midge is now easily found (damaged leaf shown right). Protect non-cropping plantations (cuttings and cut-down yearlings) with Movento. Remember that Batavia is only approved for post-harvest use, though activity at that timing may be limited by drought and lack of growth.
- In plantations where there is significant amount of big bud, you can apply Envidor after flowering. This treatment is more easily justified if young plantations are in the vicinity, to reduce the infestation pressure to which they are subjected. Remember that it has the same mode of action as Batavia which as indicated above, can be used after harvest and will also give some Gall Mite control. Next year will be the last year of use for Envidor.



## BLUEBERRIES

- If flowers on later varieties have been damaged by cold injury, then apply a botryticide as soon as possible.
- Light Brown Apple Moth adults have been seen in crops last week (adult pictured, right). You should have pheromone traps out and whilst there is no formally recognised threshold for treatment, we recommend you apply an insecticide if 5 or more are caught in a week. Main options for control are Coragen (outdoor only) or Explicit (outdoor and protected). Neither should be used on crops in flower. Coragen has a 14 day harvest interval and Explicit is 7 days. They should be applied about 7 days after the threshold is reached.



## MISCELLANEOUS

- Welsh Water's pesticide amnesty has been extended until the 29<sup>th</sup> May for those in their catchment area (which includes much of Herefordshire and South Shropshire) or anywhere in Wales. You can get more details [here](#). Many of the water companies have these amnesties periodically so look out for them in your area. They are often publicised by your local NFU and on the Voluntary Initiative [website](#). They are an opportunity to dispose of pesticides which are no longer approved and the whole process is confidential.

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