

It's our people that make the difference

STRAWBERRIES

- We continue to see a rise in [Western Flower Thrips](#) and Two Spotted Spider Mite numbers where biological control programmes have not been robust enough. A reminder that other thrips species have also been found causing damage to fruits in recent years. The AHDB have published a useful [review](#) of these pests. You can also see a webinar which includes an update on pheromones to trap thrips [here](#).
- Capsid populations are rising in some crops, and decisions have to be taken as to which is the greater risk, capsid or Western Flower Thrips? Hallmark Zeon is the most effective insecticide for capsid, but will knock out any established *Orius* populations and be very detrimental to predatory mites because of its persistence. Benevia 10 OD, if applied for SWD control, will also give some capsid control and would be less harmful to predatory mites. Unfortunately, if you have wildlife friendly margins to your plantations, or if you have too many flowering weeds, this is going to contribute to capsid pest pressure.
- As highlighted last week, be on the lookout for Tortrix caterpillars which can cause problems again at this time of year. [Dipel DF](#) is the best option given its lack of a harvest interval.

RASPBERRIES

- Monitor for second generation Blackberry Leaf Midge and also capsid bugs.
- With early production finished and cane being cut out, now is a chance to apply Explicit for caterpillar control and top up predators for spider mite control. This is also true for primocanes which are being cut back for a second crop.

BLACKCURRANTS

- When planning post-harvest treatments, be aware of varietal differences;
 - Leaf spot – all varieties are susceptible, especially after the passage of the machine. [Signum](#) provides good protection.
 - Ben Gairn and Ben Vane are most likely to be infested with Two Spotted Spider Mite, although any variety can be affected, usually on light, thin or compacted soils. This could flare up with higher temperatures this week. [Envidor](#) is now the main option although [Batavia](#) applied post-harvest for aphid and Gall Mite control will give some spider mite control as well. [Botanigard WP](#) and [FLIPPER](#) are also authorised for use.
 - Rust is most likely to affect Ben Dorain and Ben Hope. Use [Signum](#) or [Systhane 20EW](#).
 - Phomopsis is most likely to affect Ben Avon, Ben Alder and Ben Tirran, particularly if it has been dry around harvest. Harvest gently to avoid damage to the base of the stems, and irrigate after harvest if possible. Consider applying [Serenade ASO](#) as a high volume spray directed at the base of the bush on high risk sites.
 - Powdery Mildew is most likely to affect Ben Lomond, although it has been seen for the first time in lightly sprayed Ben Starav. Use [Signum](#), [Systhane 20EW](#) or [Topas](#)
- Feed to promote continued photosynthesis and replenishment of carbohydrate reserves in the bush. An application of 40 - 50 kg N/ha post-harvest is widely adopted practice and appears useful.

BLUEBERRIES

- Watch out for the tell-tale signs (leaf notching) of adult Vine Weevil activity in potted plantations. You should be starting a little and often approach to applying nematodes until the autumn, either through the irrigation or via a hand lance.
- Blueberry can be very sensitive to changes in water quality, so be cautious if you change water source in the season, and you should always check changes in borehole water quality, especially in mid-summer, as often the composition can alter as the water levels in the borehole go down. Your Hutchinsons agronomist can arrange water tests for nutrient and microorganism content.

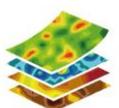
Further information please contact Jonathan Blackman: 07774 738213. jonathan.blackman@hlh ltd.co.uk
H.L.Hutchinson Ltd., Weasenham Lane, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, PE13 2RN.



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