



FRUIT E-BULLETIN

HUTCHINSONS

Crop Production Specialists

STRAWBERRIES

- Sunny days and inadequate ventilation can see conditions suitable for early Powdery Mildew infection in tunnel and glasshouse crops, so be vigilant and apply suitable fungicides where needed. Make sure you rotate your fungicide groups. Full guidance on anti-resistance strategies is given in the [FRAG-UK soft fruit guidelines](#). A reminder of the various groups, and which products fall into them, is in the table below. Products containing difenoconazole ([Amistar Top](#) and [Charm](#)) will work best when temperatures are above 16°C, and [Takumi SC](#) is most effective in the vapour phase so best curative action is achieved at temperatures of 25°C or higher.

Fungicide Group (FRAC Code)						
QoI (C3)	SDHI (C2)	DMI (G1)	Phenyl Acetamide (U06)	Azanaphthalene (E1)	Hydroxy-Pyrimidines (A2)	Multi-Site
Amistar/Azoxystar Amistar Top Luna Sensation Signum Stroby WG	Charm Luna Sensation Signum	Amistar Top Charm Topas	Takumi	Justice/Talius	Nimrod	Amylo X WG Karma Potassium Bicarbonate Sulphur Sonata Serenade ASO

- As is too often the case, [Phytophthora Crown Rot](#) is showing in Malling Centenary plants (collapsing plant pictured, near right). Application of [Phorce](#) in the irrigation and/or as foliar sprays will help to prevent expression of symptoms. [Paraat](#) remains an option but remember the 35 day harvest interval. Dimethomorph is being used up in the grace period in the EU so continental propagators will not be able to use it after the end of May this year. Of course, if you do see collapsing plants that have been overwintered, do check for [Vine Weevil](#) damage as this may be the cause.
- Strawberry Tortrix caterpillars are being found in crops now (picture above, right). Apply Dipel DF/[Delfin WG](#) or you can use [Hallmark Zeon](#) or [Tracer](#) if you have not started your biocontrol programme and no flowers are open.



RASPBERRIES

- With spawn control on the agenda, [Shark](#) can have a tendency to 'lift' so careful application is always advised. Choose the correct nozzle to give a medium spray quality, with a water volume sufficient to wet the leaves (the [EAMU](#) suggests 1000 l/ha but this may be excessive in pot-grown crops) and do not use too high a pressure (3 Bar recommended) as you may be bouncing droplets off the Mypex or polythene and up into the canes. The EAMU recommends using a silicon wetter such as Slither at 200 ml/1000 L strength. [Validate](#) may be a better choice of adjuvant as it will also reduce drift.
- With some cold nights and sunny days, this can lead to leaf damage and distortion as a reaction to these extremes. Make sure you vent the tunnels.

BLACKCURRANTS

- Anticipate massive mite emergence and migration in the warm conditions forecast for the week.
- This year, we have enjoyed better winter chilling in all regions, with even Gloucestershire/Herefordshire reaching 2000 hours below 7°C. That is still insufficient for Ben Alder and Tirran though, so consider deploying the bark-applied nutrient mix at the start of the week, after which the opportunity will have passed.
- Caterpillars (especially Winter Moth) have finally appeared, so if affected, add a suitable insecticide to your next sulphur application. Options are [Hallmark Zeon](#) (if before flowering) or [Delfin WG](#). Whilst products based on *Bacillus thuringiensis* can be used in flower, they do need dry periods, with [Dipel DF](#) needing 12 hours without rain but [Delfin WG](#) just 4 hours.

BLUEBERRIES

- You should be monitoring for overwintering Light Brown Apple Moth caterpillars in buds in blueberry. [Explicit](#) is authorised for use in outdoor and protected crops but check that your retailer permits its use. [Spruzit](#) remains only for use on outdoor crops only. You need to apply either of these products before you introduce any bumblebees. The [Coragen](#) EAMU is for outdoor use only and can only be applied after flowering. Explicit and Coragen rely on ingestion by the pest and with Spruzit you have to contact them, so good coverage of emerging tissue is needed whichever material is deployed.

