



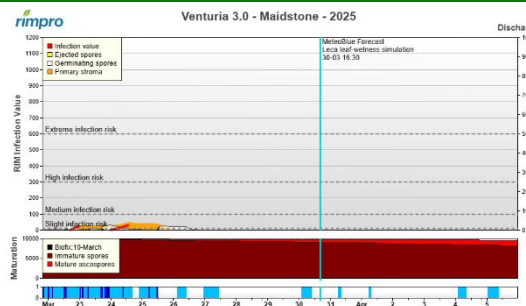
FRUIT E-BULLETIN

HUTCHINSONS

Crop Production Specialists

APPLES

- It has been a quiet start to the [scab](#) season with a dry March (see RIMpro graph, right). The small amounts of rain have triggered very minor ascospore releases due to the cool dry weather. Note also that RIMpro have refined their model, as warmer autumns are believed to delay ascospore maturation and spore release in the spring. We are now in one of those situations where a prolonged dry spell (next week looks dry for everyone) will lead to a potentially large ascospore release event when the next significant rainfall occurs. This then requires maximum coverage of leaf tissue (are you using the right nozzles and water volume, combined with the right forward speed?) and the correct choice of product.
- Where larger cankers have not been pruned or scraped out, then you can find the red perithecia (the sexual fruiting bodies) of [Neonectria ditissima](#) (picture right). They contain ascospores which will be released in wet weather and can cause long-distance (wind-borne) infections. Fortunately, our scab fungicides will provide useful protection against new infections, but it does highlight the benefit of cleaning out stem cankers to prevent these ascospores from being released.
- The warmer days have woken up pests and [Apple Blossom Weevil](#) are easily found in orchards now, together with signs of feeding and/or egg-laying activity. With first scab protection likely to be going on cider apple varieties later this week, this is your opportunity to control this pest, albeit with options that are not friendly to our beneficial insects.
- First tortrix and [Winter Moth](#) caterpillars are starting to appear in dessert and culinary crops. If you have [Explicit](#) in stock, this is an opportunity to use it (final use by 28th February next year) otherwise options would be [Tracer](#) (although you are restricted to the lower 150 ml/ha rate pre-flowering) or [Dipel DF/Delfin WG](#).
- Likewise, [Apple Grass Aphid](#) and [Rosy Apple Aphid](#) nymphs can be found, so plan to apply [Mainman](#) before flowering to give control. Warm days have also increased [Woolly Aphid](#) activity (picture, right).



PEARS

- With pears coming towards white bud, you should consider the need to apply gibberellins to help set the crop in flowering. Assuming no frost, then timing would be between full bloom and petal fall. Unless there is a lot of blossom (and there are certainly plenty of orchards with good fruit bud this season), it is worthwhile using [Novagib](#) or [Regulex 10 SG](#) to help set the crop. The advice from PC Fruit in Belgium is set out in the table below.

	Without Frost Damage	With Frost Damage
If there are very many flower buds	Do nothing. Wait and see	Immediately ½ a dose of GA _{4/7}
If there is a moderate to good number of flower buds	Between full bloom and the end of flowering 1 x ½ dose of GA _{4/7}	Immediately ½ a dose of GA _{4/7} + 2 x 0.5 kg/ha Regalis 2 and 3 weeks after full bloom
If there is a moderate to low number of flower buds	Between full bloom and the end of flowering 1 x ½ dose of GA _{4/7} + 2 x 0.5 kg/ha Regalis 2 and 3 weeks after full bloom	Immediately ½ dose GA _{4/7} + ½ a dose of GA _{4/7} at the end of flowering + 2 x 0.5 kg/ha Regalis 2 and 3 weeks after full bloom

If using [Promalin](#) (GA_{4/7} + 6-BA), then it is recommended to apply twice; the first application at the start of flowering, the second application between full bloom and petal fall with a minimum spray interval of 2 days. Dose at 25 ml/100 litres, using 500 l/ha/m of canopy height.

PLUMS

- If you haven't applied an insecticide before flowering, then discuss petal fall options with your agronomist.

CHERRIES

- With flowers opening in early varieties under protection, feed bumblebees with pollen if you do not have enough flowers open in other varieties. Apply [Kelpak](#) and [Megafof](#) to help set the crop. Start a calcium programme with [Calmax Ultra](#).

