

It's our people that make the difference

STRAWBERRIES

- Not surprisingly, given the mildness of the winter, aphids are being found in the crowns of over-wintered plants and they are starting to migrate onto the new growth (see picture, right). Batavia is a good choice as long as you have new green tissue and active growth in the plant. It will also give you early control of Two Spotted Spider Mite. Whilst it will not control the females coming out of diapause, it may reduce their ability to produce eggs and will control hatching motiles.
- Apollo 50 SC will control eggs and hatched larvae but a 35 day harvest interval.



RASPBERRIES

- In forced early raspberry crops, aphids are being seen as well (right). You will probably want to save applications of Calypso and Decis Protech for later in the season for other pests. If you have some Pyrethrum 5 EC left in stock (MAPP 12685 and MAPP 18210) then that would be one option or perhaps a better option would be FLIPPER.
- Two Spotted Spider Mite may be coming out of diapause in some tunnels and glasshouse crops. Options are very limited for chemical control with Apollo 50 SC now being the only specific acaricide authorised for use on outdoor and protected raspberry, although Dynamec/Clayton Abba is still authorised for use in glasshouse crops. However, FLIPPER has very useful activity on motile spider mites, so may be handy later in the season. Many growers also use *Phytoseiulus persimilis* introductions, but it has two disadvantages early in the season. Firstly, it needs temperatures of 10 °C to be active and also it needs plenty of food, and it only eats Two Spotted Spider Mite. *Amblyseius andersoni* is active from 6 °C and will feed on thrips and pollen as well as mites. It is available through Hutchinsons from Bioline Agrosciences and the Gemini slow release sachets are the best method of deployment early in the season.



BLACKCURRANTS

- Early blackcurrant varieties have scraped the chill requirement on most sites, but the mid and late-season varieties are another story. You should be talking to your agronomist about bark-applied nutrients to promote a more even bud break.
- Ben Gairn, Hope and Vane now have visible green leaf so sulphur sprays will start soon. Adding Wetcit to help the sulphur stick and coat the tissue will definitely help
- The Gall Mite emergence model is again being hosted by AHDB. There will be no bulletins sent out by AHDB so you will have to check the model for your nearest weather station on their [website](#).

BLUEBERRIES

- Check pots for Vine Weevil Larvae. *Nemasys L* is active from 5 °C so you can start applications from anytime soon. Hutchinsons holds stock of *Nemasys L* in our own cold storage facility and it can be dispatched direct to growers via our own distribution network.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Our colleagues at Produce Packaging are celebrating 40 years of existence this year. From humble beginnings in 1980, making wooden apple and pear crates, to leading the industry in service and innovation for their clients, they have been on a fantastic journey. Please follow them on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#) throughout the year as they embark on significant projects to further improve their range and infrastructure.

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