

APPLES

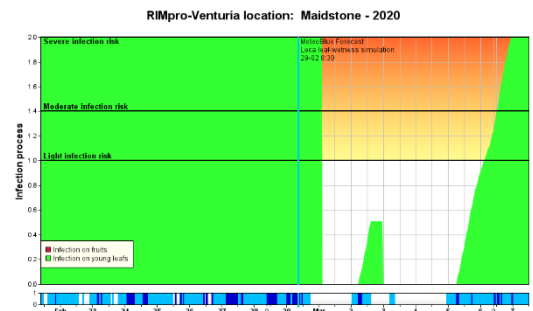
It's our people that make the difference

- Sometimes it must seem there are easier way to make a living! We have some varieties at budburst in all areas (Braeburn in Kent, near right, and Norfolk, far right) and even Cox and Gala starting to show a bit of green tissue in places. Yet ground conditions make it either impossible to travel or you are likely to make a major mess of the alleyways when you do travel (the headlands are a mess after harvest in many cases). So what to do? The key things are to prioritise in terms of risk.



- Varieties with low scab susceptibility will not be a priority (e.g. Red/Early Windsor). Where varieties are susceptible, then scab history needs to be taken into account.
- If the orchard was clean last year, it will not be a priority over an orchard which had scab last year.
- Finally, what is the risk of scab infection presently?

The RIMpro model requires a biofix date. This is either the date that ascospores are first caught in traps or when green tissue is present. The UK does not trap for ascospores, but in northern European countries where they do, mature ascospores have been detected but no discharge yet. Conditions in the last week have been too cold for primary ascospore infections to occur anyway. However, it is known that in orchards which had live scab in them last autumn, in mild winters, the fungus will remain alive over winter on the bud scales. Infection from this scab will be by release of conidial spores. Therefore, we need to look at the secondary scab infection output from RIMpro. As you can see (right) the past week has been one long scab infection period if there is green tissue present. Whilst rutting orchards is not desirable, the ground can be re-instated later. If scab gets in early, you will be chasing it all season. Just ensure that you can travel safely. Not having a full spray tank can help.



PEARS

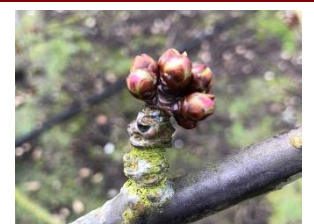
- Pears are well and truly at bud burst. Again, prioritise your spraying on pest and disease risk.
- At the AHDB/NIAB EMR Tree Fruit Day last week it was suggested that Pear Blossom Weevil (*Anthonomus spilotus*) is not doing as much damage as the holes in buds may suggest. This is in line with Apple Blossom Weevil where buds with feeding holes often exceed the number of capped flowers seen after flowering. You should be guided by the amount of damage to fruits seen last season as to the necessity to spray this year. You may also wish to take into account that our most effective control for the pest, Calypso, will not be available in 2021.

PLUMS

- Early varieties such as Haganta are getting close to white bud. Victoria is at bud burst. Again, with ground conditions unlikely to improve rapidly, prioritising spraying by variety will be important. The varieties most susceptible to Plum Leaf Curling Aphid (e.g. Marjorie's Seedling) should get a Calypso or Gazelle SG before flowering. Others could possibly wait until petal fall. Discuss tactics and options with your agronomist.

CHERRIES

- Buds are swelling (Sweetheart in Kent last week shown, right). Don't forget that bud burst is the cut off for application of residual herbicides.
- You should be trapping for SWD, especially on field margins or in adjacent woodland. Hutchinsons can supply the [Droso Trap](#) large trap and [Drosal Pro](#) precision monitoring trap from Andermatt. These both use [Drosalure](#) bait. Comparing your trap counts now with the same time in previous years will help you to know the size of the over-wintering population and the likelihood of early damage in this season.



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