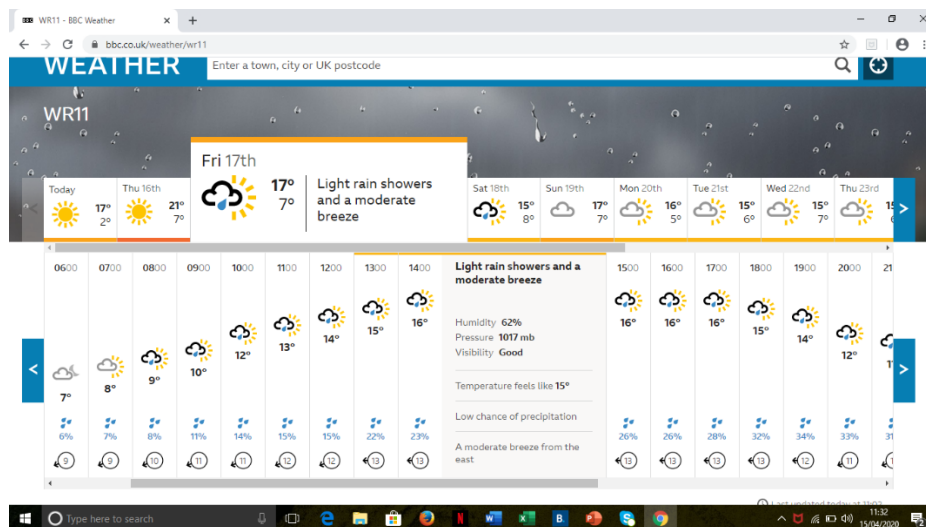


How to determine the weekly powdery mildew category using the BBC website and the risk table

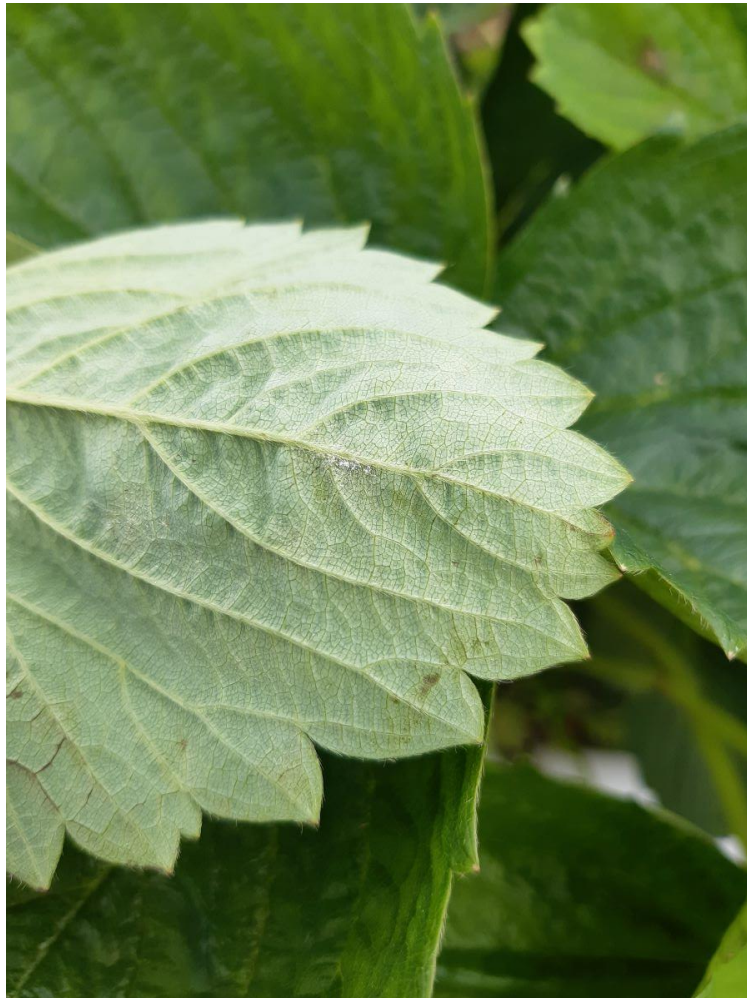
- Soon after planting inspect plants for mildew mycelium on over-wintered leaves. These are a source of inoculum for the new crop.
- Apply a broad-spectrum conventional fungicide for control soon after planting.
- From March / April, on a Monday look up BBC weather forecast for the week ahead for post code area of farm. This will give hourly temperatures for each day in the week ahead and also the humidity if you click on the windspeed button.



- Compare data to that in the red, yellow and green risk 'look up' table for powdery mildew below to determine the weather risk for the week ahead. This will need to be adjusted if a tunnel is sealed up, as humidity and temperatures will be higher within. For instance, under a tunnel, you could increase the temperature and humidity readings by 15%, so that a BBC reading of 10°C would be increased to 11.5°C and relative humidity of 50% would be increased to 57.5% under a closed tunnel.
- Make a judgement on which category of risk the data best fits (Low, Moderate or High).

Condition		Mildew risk
Temperature °C	Humidity	
< 14	Not relevant	Low
≥ 14	< 82%	Moderate
≥ 14	≥ 82%	High

- Generally, the weather up to June is above threshold for humidity at night but too cold, and above threshold for day temperature but not humid enough meaning that sprays for powdery mildew can be delayed.
- The risk will also need to be adjusted if new mildew lesions are found during the weekly inspections.



New mildew lesion on leaf underside

- Continue with this procedure weekly through the season.
- Once the weather reaches threshold, generally in late May or June, the favourable conditions continue for rest of the season.
- Once new mildew lesions are found (or before this if conditions are very favourable) then start the 7-day programme.
- Start with a conventional effective mildew fungicide to deal with any missed new mildew lesions. Then continue with programme based on biopesticides,

switching to conventional fungicides if the weather risk is very high or mildew incidence is increasing.

- **Once conditions are conducive to mildew infection, spray decisions are not a question of spraying or not spraying but how often to spray and with which product. Once weather becomes favourable for mildew then, on a susceptible cultivar, treatment for mildew will need to continue as a regular programme, usually at 7-day intervals.**