

## **News** from **Peerbolt Crop Management**

Seasonal updates sent out weekly during the growing season, and sporadically when we have news to share during the off-season.

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### **Meetings:**

**3/17 Grower's workshop** From 8:00-3:15. Student Services Bldg, Rm. 129, WSU Vancouver campus. \$20 Three pesticide credits. I got the information in the mail about a week ago so if you haven't received it call Terry or Vicki at the WSU Research Station 360-576-6030. The program includes Norm Johnson from Littau, new chemical updates, new variety information, and Brian Cieslar (Fieldman for Maberry Farms in Lynden). Rufus Lalone and I will be moderating a grower forum on "Opportunities and Practical Solutions for Berry Growers."

### **Market Outlook:**

After hearing all the speculation on the coming year's markets at the winter meetings, here's the consensus opinion: Raspberries—A lot left in cold storage, looks like a very soft year for raspberry prices. Strawberries—Seems to be strong buyer interest in Northwest strawberries. It depends on the price California sets, but it should be at least as strong as last year. Blueberries—Very strong market demand. Last year's record crop sold well. Supplies are at record lows. Price should be strong. Marionberries—Should be a good market price this year, but there are a lot of acres going in right now that could cause problems in the future.

### **Crops:**

**Lime sulfur applications:** I'm getting a lot of questions about whether we need to apply lime sulfur. If you've got blackberries, I strongly recommend it for controlling many diseases and mites, such as Red Berry Mite, purple blotch, rust, and powdery mildew.

In raspberries, the need for lime sulfur isn't as clear. It helps to control rust, spur blight, anthracnose and, if you add oil, mites. However, we most likely will have Orbit again for rust control—so is it needed? Last year we didn't use much lime sulfur and I saw spur blight come through in a couple of fields, so this year I'm recommending going on with it. I think it's a good idea but certainly the need for it in raspberries is not as strong as in blacks.

**All caneberrries:** Finish the canework ASAP.

**Evergreen blackberries:** Dormant spray of lime sulfur in February for red berry mites.

**Blueberries:** Scout for winter moth. I haven't seen any outbreaks yet this season.

**Strawberries:** Option for herbicide program—Apply 6 lbs. of Devrinol per acre over the rows. In two or three weeks come through and till. Then apply Simazine (less expensive than Devrinol) between the rows only, because it can cause plant damage.

**All crops:** If you didn't use any fall pre emergent for weeds, apply one whenever you get a weather break now.

### **Week's Weather Outlook:**

Looks stormy for the next couple of weeks. Might get very windy on Sunday and we could get as much as five inches of rain between now and March fourth.