

## **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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**Help Wanted: I need two people for 30-40 hours a week @\$7.50 /hour plus mileage.** They need to have cars and be able to work independently.

The plants are waking up. Raspberry primocanes are showing in the younger fields, the blueberry buds are breaking, and new strawberry growth is coming. Time to apply lime sulfur on the raspberries. Time for it to rain for two weeks, right? It's possible, but be prepared to take advantage of any weather break we get. You'll need at least a couple of days of dry weather so the application isn't immediately washed off (as well as getting a dry enough field). Don't wait for the new growth to get to 1 inch. Go on whenever you get the break.

The fertilizer situation for all crops is similar. Ideally, I would go on with it between March 20<sup>th</sup> and the end of the month. But with the weather being unpredictable, be prepared to go on with it anytime now that you get the opportunity.

### **Crops:**

**Raspberries:** Apply delayed dormant lime sulfur application when weather permits. Add oil for some mite control.

**Blueberries:** Apply copper for bacterial canker control.

**All crops:** 1) Apply fertilizer. Formulation should be determined by soil test.

2) If you didn't use any fall pre-emergent for weeds, apply one whenever you get a weather break now.

### **Mummyberry Control**

I just received much of the following information from Pete Bristow (WSU Plant Pathologist).

We do now have a Section 18 for use of Orbit 3.6 EC to control Mummyberry in blueberries in Washington. I've had some reports that spore cups have been opening in some fields already. The spore cups are the means by which the disease spreads. When they open they release the spores which infect the plant. Usually spray is timed for when the vegetative buds are just starting to push. It's easier to look at the plants than search around trying to spot the spore cups and this timing is pretty good. **So, if the buds are breaking, go on with Orbit.** Repeat in 10 to 14 days.

If you have had problems with Botrytis bloom blight in the past, you can also tank mix Captan along with Orbit when the blooms are opening. Orbit alone has limited activity against Botrytis.

A few relevant facts about Orbit:

1) Application rate is 6 fluid ounces per acre.

2) Maximum of three applications.

3) New regulation: **If your field is within one mile of the Cowlitz river you are required to notify WSDA 48 hours prior to each application.** Pre-notifications must include 1) applicator's name. 2) Telephone number. 3) Anticipated application time and date. 4) Field location. 5) Product to be applied. 6) Crop to be treated. 7) Number of acres to be treated. The pre-notifications can be sent to WSDA by telephone at 360-902-2040, by Fax at 360-902-2093 or by email at "compliance@agr.wa.gov"

They're supposed to be posting a map of the watershed areas affected by this new pre-notification procedure but it isn't up yet. If you've got questions call WSDA at 360-902-2030 or Pete Bristow at 253-445-4569.

**Meetings:**

**3/11 Oregon Blueberry Growers Association:** At the North Willamette Research Station. Call 503-663-6451.

**3/17 Grower's workshop** From 8:00-3:15. Student Services Bldg., Rm. 129, WSU Vancouver campus. \$20 Three pesticide credits. If you haven't received information 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."

**Week's Weather Outlook:** Wet. Rain/showers with lows around 40 and highs in the 50s (maybe 60).

**Notes:** Lynell Tanigoshi at the WSU Research Station is looking for area strawberry fields that might have weevil. He and Jeanette are working on what (and when) weevil species are showing up in strawberries. Let him know if you'd like some of your weevils personally escorted off your property. 360-576-6030