

Peerbolt Crop Management News & Opinions

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

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We had a frost event in the early morning of April 24th. I haven't checked the temperature recorders in the fields yet but the Vancouver airport reported 32 degrees around five AM then climbing above freezing again. I suspect it probably dropped one or two degrees below that in outlying areas but I haven't seen any strawberry bloom damage so far. I hear it got down as low as 26 degrees in some Willamette valley locations. They also had more bloom out than we did. Initial damage estimates vary from no damage on some fields to over twenty percent on others.

Degree-day update: Rufus says we're running 6-7 days ahead of last year in strawberries.

Crops:

Raspberries: **1)** Caneburn when new primocanes are 3-4" tall. **2)** Apply foliar fungicides and/or foliar fertilizers **3)** Apply second application of dry fertilizer around the end of the month.

Blueberries: **1)** Apply Orbit (in Washington) for Mummyberry control. Use Indar in Oregon. Repeat in 10-14 days up to three applications. Funginex may still be used in both states **2)** Apply fungicide for Botrytis control at 10% bloom. **3)** Apply second application of dry fertilizer around the end of the month.

Evergreen Blackberries: Apply lime sulfur for red berry mite control when lateral growth reaches 2-6" long. **2)** Apply second application of dry fertilizer around the end of the month.

Strawberries: **1)** Foliar fertilizers and/or fungicides can be applied. **2)** Apply fungicide for Botrytis control at 10% bloom and every 7-10 days after the first application.

Chemical Updates:

1) We're still waiting to get a clearance for the use of **Switch** in raspberries for botrytis control but I believe we'll be receiving it next week with an OK for up to four applications. (No sure thing yet...)

2) It doesn't look as if we're going to get **Elevate** for caneberries.

3) Strawberry fruit rot fungicide options are **Captan, Thiram, Rovral** and **Elevate**. In most circumstances this year I'm recommending a **Thiram, Elevate** rotation.

Caneberry leaf test results this week: I'll have the most results by this coming Tuesday and will get foliar recommendations to all my caneberry growers by the end of the week.

Insect monitoring update:

1) We had a winter moth infestation that caused in an economically significant loss in blueberries in the Woodland area last week.

2) Mite counts declined a little this week

3) Leafroller trap numbers in one marionberry field in Woodburn was 250 this week. They continue to climb in raspberry fields also.

4) Look out for Cyclamen Mite damage in strawberries. It usually shows up as very distorted new growth.

5) Root weevil larvae are now beginning to pupate. About 30% of larvae in the Ridgefield and Woodland areas have pupated. (This allows us to know when adults will begin to emerge so we can begin treating)

Disease monitoring update:

1) Shock virus symptoms are now very pronounced in blueberries. If the plant looks like someone took a blowtorch to it, it probably has Shock.

2) Rust spores are showing up in raspberries. They are on the upper leaf surface (aecia type spores). No treatment is needed at this stage of infection.

3) Mummyberry infected vegetative buds are actively releasing spores in blueberries. Keep on top of Orbit (or Indar or Funginex) applications if you've had mummyberry problems in the past.

4) Tomato Ringspot Virus leaf symptoms can now be seen on some infected raspberry plants as a chlorotic chevron pattern on some of the leaves. The infection isn't always visible. If you have plants with low vigor and crumbly fruit, a leaf sample should be taken. Primocane leaves should be collected for testing since fruiting cane leaves will often test negative even if the disease is present.
