

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. ~ *Tom & Anna Peerbolt*

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- Raspberries and Marionberries are now finished. Evergreen blackberries still look to be more than a week away from harvest.
- Raspberry yields were down significantly overall this year. The main culprit appears to have been the few very hot days right near the beginning of harvest in late June. Small and shriveled fruit was prevalent. The fruit was also difficult to machine harvest in many fields. It hung on to the pedicel more tightly than normal. Low yields and low prices...
- Some changes are taking place at the WSU Research and Extension Station in Vancouver. As most of you know, Scott Cameron, the station director and small fruit horticulturist, has taken a position in Washington, DC. WSU budgets are also being revised (not upward). Also, some of the berry growers up north have been very vocal about their desire to have more of the WSU small fruit research done in Mt. Vernon rather than in our area. All of this adds up to the very real possibility that we could end up with fewer researchers and less resources at the Station to support our industry in this area.

Crops:

Raspberries: 1) Treat for mites if needed. 2) Treat for cane blight if needed.

Strawberries: Established fields. 1) Fertilize and water after renovation.

New fields: 1) Fertilize 2) Treat for twospotted mites if needed.

Insect monitoring update:

1) **Orange tortrix** trap counts are increasing. This is the time of year orange tortrix adults spread into new areas and reinfest areas that have been treated.

2) Watch for **Redberry mites** in evergreen blackberries.

3) **Two-spotted mite** numbers are rising in some raspberry and newly planted strawberry fields

Disease monitoring update:

If you've had a problem with **cane blight** in raspberries, go on with an application of Benlate immediately following raspberry harvest. The idea is to direct the spray to the base of the canes and treat the catcher plate scars before they've healed up. This will prevent infection of the primocanes.

Cane blight symptoms: Fruit laterals wilt and die (may be only one side of the cane). Orange-brown steaks extend up the cambium layer from the wounds. Black lesions develop on new canes at the wounds.

Weather: Same forecast as for the past three weeks: Remaining dry. Highs in the low 80s and lows around 60.
