

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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Evergreen blackberries are just about finished with harvest. There have been some mold problems with our wetter weather in the last couple of weeks.

Field Day on Thursday: The WSU Vancouver Research and Extension Station on 78th Street is having a grower field day on Thursday, 9/21 from 1-4. Presentations will include a look at the new Littau harvester, strawberry fungicide updates, root rot control and a tour of the experimental plots. I will be giving a presentation on insects and diseases that impacted yields this season. Two pesticide recertification credits. For more info call Terry at 360-576-6030

Fall recommendations: All fall recommendations for lime and fertilizer applications have now been distributed to my clients (well, almost all...). If you've got any questions please give me a call. Its time to get the fieldwork done. George Taylor, the Oregon climatologist is predicting an early winter with rains starting in mid-October.

Raspberry Grading Standards: I just got a packet of information on the new grading standards from Jim Jesernig, the Director of the Washington Department of Agriculture. This is a source of controversy within the Washington raspberry industry. Some growers are now questioning whether the department has the authority to impose these standards and are getting some of their legislators involved. This is creating divisions within the Raspberry Commission. If you want more information on this, contact your commissioners, Jerry Dobbins or Merrill Firestone. You could also get in touch with Henry Bierlink, the Commission's Executive Director at 360-354-8767 or email him at wardberry@aol.com

GPS Field mapping: Western Farm Services is offering field mapping. I mentioned this before, but after having a couple clients use this service, I'm really convinced of its value. It entails someone running through the field on an ATV and taking a test every 2.5 acres. You then get very accurate maps on total acreage, soil types and (depending on how much you want to spend) pH, calcium, phosphorus, potassium and magnesium levels. Other nutrients can also be added. The information from this mapping helps in making more accurate fertilizer and lime applications, which saves money. Call Josh Nelson at Western Farm Services (541-928-3391) to get more information. Maximum cost is well under \$20 an acre.

Fall root rot control: Use foliar fungicide on strawberries and raspberries for Phytophthora control. Also subsoil and hill raspberries. Some growers are also applying gypsum. The increase in calcium appears to inhibit the growth of the Phytophthora spores.

The **grower meeting** held at the Vancouver research station Sept. 8 was well attended and raised a number of important issues. A couple of the major research concerns were the pressing need for new varieties in strawberries and raspberries and the need for new herbicides. There was also an in-depth discussion about possible changes at the station given the budget pressures within WSU, Scott Cameron's departure and the vocal support from some northern small fruit growers to shift some research activities to the Mt. Vernon Station.

Week's Weather: Dry with lows around fifty and highs in the low seventies.
