

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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December 28, 2000 ~ Happy New Year!!

Winter Weed Management: This is the time of year to get control of a couple of our major weed problems. In **strawberries** Goal can be applied until the end of January. It does a good job on groundsel. Not so good on perennials. **Quackgrass in caneberries** can also be addressed with Casoron or Kerb while the plants are dormant.

Chemical Control Updates:

(1) There's an ongoing discussion right now concerning which fungicide it would be preferable to request for a Section 18 exemption for this coming caneberry season. **Switch (Cypronil & Fludioxonil)** has been used in caneberries the last couple of years with good success and could be requested again. **Elevate (Fenhexamid)** has been suggested as an alternative this year to allow some resistance management by alternating chemistries in different years. Both are new, low-risk chemistries that are effective against botrytis and are presently moving toward full registrations at EPA. If you've got a strong preference for one or the other, please contact Joe DeFrancesco (541-737-0718) in Oregon or Alan Schreiber (509-543-9757) in Washington.

(2) **Goal (Oxyfluorfen)** apparently will no longer be available for use in strawberries after the present dormant season. The EPA is not renewing the temporary tolerance under which it has been allowed.

(3) **Brigade (Bifenthrin)** is getting a full registration for use in raspberries. There is still some question about how long the re-entry interval is going to be.

Public Hearing on Washington Red Raspberry Grading Standards: A hearing is scheduled for January 18th beginning at 6:30 PM at the Whatcom County Courthouse. This hearing will address how the proposed standards will economically effect growers. If you want more info on this, contact Henry Bierlink, Raspberry Commission Exec (360-354-8767), Jon Cotton, Commissioner (360-256-8996), Jerry Dobbins, Commissioner (360-607-2455), or myself. These standards have the potential to effect the price growers receive by setting standards to separate juice stock from puree grade. Growers concerned with the price they received last year should educate themselves on this issue. It might be worth it to make the trip up or submit written testimony.

Our website is (almost) up and running. On January 1, instead of the place-holding page that's been there for the past year, you will find our official website. We'll use this site to post info such as pest alerts, trap counts and degree-days during the season, and also have a place to archive our past News & Opinions updates, as well as a place to post the latest one. Eventually we'll add research information, chemical label changes, alternative crop information and, for our clients, secure areas for their test results and recommendations. Our plan is to have a site that will give growers access to the information they need, when they need it to make the best decisions they can. So, after Jan. 1, go to <http://www.peerbolt.com> and have a look.

Up-coming Meetings:

1) Western Washington Hort Association, Jan. 3-5, Seatac Marriott Call me for information

2) North Willamette Hort Assn., Jan 10-11 (10th is Vegetable day, 11th is Berry day), Ramada Inn at the Airport. Call Heidi (503-678-1264 x 10) for information

3) Oregon Blueberry Commission research day, Jan 16 at the North Willamette Station in Aurora. Call Heidi (503-678-1264 x 10) for information

4) Oregon Hort Society Meeting, Jan 30-Feb 1. Call Heidi (503-678-1264 x 10) for information