

Small Fruit Update

News & Opinions from Peerbolt Crop Management sent out weekly during the growing season, and sporadically when we have something to share during the off-season. ~ *Tom & Anna Peerbolt*
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February 26, 2001

Sunny, warm and dry...time to get some work done

Crop Work:

All caneberries: 1) Finish the canework ASAP. 2) Insecticide drench for crown borers if field has had previous crown borer damage.

Evergreen blackberries: Dormant spray of lime/sulfur for red berry mites.

Blueberries: 1) Do pruning; 2) Scout for winter moth. **3) Copper or Bordeaux** can be applied for bacterial blight control.

Strawberries: 1) Scout for root weevil damage and overwintering root weevil adults. 2) Scout for Strawberry Crown Moth.

All crops: If you're planning on using a pre-emergent for weeds, and didn't use any in the fall, apply one whenever you get a weather break now.

Degree-day numbers: We've got some initial degree-day numbers from the temperature recorders the WSU Research Station has placed in some area fields. From 1/1/01 through 2/8/01 the totals (based on a 41-degree minimum) are: Woodland-59, Ridgefield-50, Sauvie Island-47, Vancouver-58, Brush Prairie-100, LaCenter-89, Gresham-135. This isn't too useful yet but it's interesting to see that the East Side has been warmer so far this year.

Mummyberries are beginning to sprout in area blueberry fields. Be ready to treat when the vegetative buds start opening. **Indar** has received an emergency exemption in Oregon for mummyberry control. I'm waiting to hear about **Orbit** in Washington.

Gypsum field Trials. We're presently working with The Art Wilson Company to set up a four-year gypsum field trial for control of phytophthora root rot in raspberries. Stan Muhr (Woodland Farm and Garden) and Pete Bristow are also participating in this trial.

Root Weevil Survey: Kathy Ackerman will begin collecting weevils on a weekly schedule Tuesday and sending them to Jim Fisher's lab at the NW Center for Small Fruit Research in Corvallis for analysis. If you have a field that would be a good site for collecting, please let us know. This will greatly help us in understanding what species we've got, in what numbers, and when they need to be treated.

Up-coming Meetings:

March 3 Oregon Blue Berry Commission will meet at the North Willamette Research & Extension Center in Aurora, OR, starting at 8:00 am. For more information, contact Judy Ebert (503-663-6451) or email Bernadine Strik.

March 14 Marionberry Marketing Association meeting at the North Willamette Research & Extension Center in Aurora, OR, 6:00-10:00 pm. For more information, contact Kelly Steel (503-628-2176).

March 22 Small Fruit Growers Workshop & Washington Red Raspberry Commission meeting ~ Vancouver, WA All day workshop put on by the Vancouver Research & Extension Station. Will be held at the WSU branch campus in Vancouver. The commission will have its southern area meeting on the same day and in the same location. Call Terri (360-576-6030) for more information.

April 3 Oregon Strawberry Commission meeting ~ North Willamette Research & Extension Center, Aurora, OR. Regular commission meeting starting at 5:00 PM. For more information, call 541-758-4043