

## 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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Since this update goes out to many sources, and we've recently added people to the list, a reminder that, in most cases, recommendations are broad rather than comprehensive – more like informal reminders. If you want specifics, call Tom. Also, if you have something you'd like to share with others in this *Update* form, let us know and we'll try to get it out in an upcoming issue. These are our ideas and observations, please use your own best judgement in all field decisions.

### Crop Work:

**Raspberries:** 1) Delayed dormant lime sulfur can be applied after bud break. Add oil for some mite control.

**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) Finish pruning; 2) Scout for winter moth. 3) Copper or Bordeaux can be applied for bacterial blight control. 4) If field has had problems with Mummyberry, plan control strategy (see below).

**Strawberries:** As plants start growing check weak areas for root weevil or Strawberry Crown Moth larvae.

**Lime sulfur applications:** I'm getting a lot of questions about whether we need to apply lime sulfur. If you've got blackberries, I strongly recommend it for controlling many diseases and mites, such as Red Berry Mite, purple blotch, rust, and powdery mildew. In raspberries, the need for lime sulfur isn't as clear. It helps to control rust, spur blight, anthracnose and, if you add oil, mites. However, we have Rally for rust control—so is it needed? Last year we didn't use much lime sulfur and I saw spur blight come through in a couple of raspberry fields. So, I'm recommending lime sulfur only in the fields that had the spur blight last 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. Sounds like it should be coming within the next 10 days. A quick explanation of mummyberry's lifecycle to help you plan your control strategies. The overwintering mummyberries send up a mushroom like fruiting cup at this time of year. It releases spores that land on new vegetative growth, infecting it. The new growth is susceptible from budbreak to about 2 inches long. About three weeks after a shoot is infected it will produce a secondary spore release, which then infects the blossoms. This second infection produces the hard "mummyberries" that drop to the ground, overwinter, and release spores the next year. To stop this secondary stage, the blossoms need to have a fungicide present.

- If you're trying to avoid chemical applications, now is the time to destroy as many of the developing fruiting cups as possible by raking or cultivating the soil. You can also try to bury them by piling soil at the base and then later raking the soil back out.
- For chemical control Orbit (in Washington-still waiting for EPA approval), Indar (in Oregon) or Funginex (if you've got left over stock) need to be on that new growth when the spores land.

**Weather for the week:** Dry with highs getting into the 60's and lows in the 40's

**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.

For a list of upcoming meetings of interest to growers, check out the calendar on our website.

<http://www.peerbolt.com/news/newshome>