

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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Buds are breaking in the raspberries and blueberries. It looks like a good storm moving in by the end of the week. Also, remember the **March 22nd Small Fruit Growers Workshop** at the WSU Vancouver campus (6 pesticide recertification credits for Washington or Oregon). It runs from 8 AM to around 2 PM and then the **Washington Red Raspberry Commission** will be holding a meeting in the same location at 2:30. There are a lot of subjects on the table for the commission including WSU's cutback of small fruit research personnel, grading standards, and the raspberry industry's promotion plans. Try to be there. Some important decisions are being made. Call Terri (360-576-6030) for more information.

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.

Blackberries: Dormant spray of lime/sulfur.

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

All crops: Apply spring fertilizer within the next three weeks. I prefer it toward the end of the month. Plan split applications except for strawberries.

Degree Days: The most recent numbers are through 2/22 and continue the pattern of the eastside being warmer and ahead in development so far: Sauvie Island 73, Ridgefield 73, Woodland, 85, Vancouver 87, LaCenter 136, Brush Prairie 161, Boring/Gresham 189.

Chemical Control Update:

1) Brigade (Bifenthrin) now has a full registration for use in caneberries. The preharvest interval is three days. The re-entry interval is four days except for machine picked fruit where it is one day.

2) We now have a Section 18 for use of Orbit 3.6 EC to control Mummyberry in blueberries in Washington. In Oregon use Indar. Funginex is also an option in both states if you have some left. Spore cups are opening in some fields. The spore cups are the means by which the disease spreads. When they open they release the spores which infect the plant. Usually spray is timed for when the vegetative buds are just starting to push. It's easier to look at the plants than search around trying to spot the spore cups and this timing is pretty good. So, if the buds are breaking, go on with a fungicide. Repeat in 10 to 14 days.

- Relevant facts about Orbit: 1) Application rate is 6 fluid ounces per acre per application. 2) Maximum of three applications.
- 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, cultivating the soil or mulching. You can also try to bury them by piling soil at the base of the plants and then later raking the soil back out. These methods are limited in their ability to control the disease but they will help slow it down.

Weather for the week: Some showers early with a strong storm moving in late in the week. Lows around 40 and highs in the low 50s.

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).

For a list of upcoming meetings of interest to growers, check out the calendar on our website. (The link now works, just click on it.) <http://www.peerbolt.com/news/newshome.htm>