

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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Crop Work:

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

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. 3) Plan to bring in bees at around 10% bloom

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 this month. Plan split applications except for strawberries. 2) Hand weed or spot treat existing weeds

Weevil Survey News: Kathy and I have found some overwintering weevil adults—so far only two rough strawberry weevils and one black vine weevil but it is an indication that we have some adults who will be laying eggs long before our usual treatments in early June. This could be a major factor in our inability to effectively control weevils in strawberries with traditionally timed sprays.

Messenger, a product containing a naturally occurring protein (harpine) is now available for use on berry crops. Its mode of action is called "Systemic Acquired Resistance". Potential benefits include increased yield, better quality, reduced insect and disease damage and improved photosynthesis and nutrient uptake. Sounds pretty good, huh? We've got some growers who will be trying it out this year on limited acreage. I'd advise going slow until we get some verifiable results. It looks to be fairly pricey—around \$70-\$100 per acre. I believe both Joe DeFrancesco (OSU) and Pete Bristow (WSU) will also be doing some testing. Western Farm Services, Wilbur-Ellis and UAP are all carrying it. Again, I'd advise maybe trying it on just a few acres this year or just waiting until we get some feedback from this year's trials. We'll be seeing many more of these types of products becoming available and I think it'll take all of us some time to understand their modes of action, application timing and their economic value.

Chemical Control Update:

1) **Prowl** (pendimethalin), a pre-emergent herbicide has renewed its 24C label in Washington for use in strawberries in establishment years.

2) We now have a Section 18 for use of **Orbit 3.6 EC** (propiconazole) to control **Mummyberry in blueberries** in Washington.

3) The application for a Section 18 for the use of **Switch** (Cypronil & Fludioxonil) to control grey mold in caneberries in Oregon was submitted this week. Seems to be on track.

Weather for the week: Some showers early in the week, dry, sunny and warm midweek and then a chance for rain over next weekend. Lows in the high 30's. Highs in the high 50's to low 60's.

Events

March 22 Small Fruit Growers Workshop & Washington Red Raspberry Commission meeting ~ 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. 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

April 3 Willamette Valley Ag Professional Association ~ McNary Restaurant, Keizer, OR. Regular luncheon meeting, guests encouraged to attend. Noon to around 1:30 pm; lunch \$7.50. For more information, contact Dan McGrath 503-931-8307.

For a list of upcoming meetings of interest to growers, check out the calendar on our website <http://www.peerbolt.com/news/newshome.htm>