

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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Just a couple of notes from the Washington Red Raspberry Commission meeting held last Thursday. 1) The commission designated a significant amount of funds to hold in reserve for the purpose of supporting anti-dumping actions against Chile. Get a hold of your area commissioners (Jerry Dobbins or Jon Cotton in the south) for more information. 2) Three of WSU's administrators were present to explain the recent cutbacks in small fruit research personnel. The basic message is that we haven't yet reached the bottom of funding cutbacks, the cuts made so far are pretty much a done deal, and that we all need to work together to make the most of what we've got left. Dean Glawe (WSU Director of Westside Research) has organized a committee made up of two representatives of each of the berry commissions to explore options.

Crop Work:

Raspberries: 1) Delayed dormant lime sulfur can be applied after bud break. Add oil for some mite control. 2) Plan for primocane control---timing depends on material or method used and vigor of field.

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. 4) 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 found over 40 Obscure Root Weevil adults in a raspberry field in LaCenter. This is a surprise in that we didn't expect adults in large numbers to be around at this time of year. We'll be checking more to see if area fields might be suffering from early season weevil feeding on new growth similar to the clay colored weevil problem seen up north. This also has implications in strawberries. Control sprays might need to be applied earlier than usual to prevent egg laying by these early adults. More scouting is needed before we know if the presence of adult obscure weevils is widespread.

Chemical Control Update:

1) Select (Clethodim) can now be used in strawberries within four days of harvest. It previously could only be used in establishment years. It's a good grass herbicide with activity on Quackgrass. Be careful not to overuse, resistance is a potential problem.

2 Cobra (Lactofen) has received a Washington 24C label for use in strawberries in establishment years for control of annual broadleaf weeds. This is meant to be a substitute for Goal that was lost earlier this year.

Weather for the week: Off and on rain and showers. Lows around 40. Highs in the upper 50s.

Events

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.

April 26 Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission meeting, North Willamette Research & Extension Center, Aurora, OR The meeting starts at 4 pm. For more information, call Janni (541-758-4043) or email Berry Works.

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