

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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The Washington Blueberry Commission recently mailed out copies of a pest alert/fact sheet about the newly found version of **Blueberry Scorch Virus**. I've had some questions about it. Call and I'll get you a copy of the alert. All blueberry growers need to be aware of this potential threat, but don't panic. So far it has only been confirmed in British Columbia, and the USDA (Bob Martin) is in the process of trying to determine if it has spread into our area. If you know of any recent plants brought in from Canada, please let us know. I can always pass on info to Bob. Symptoms are not yet visible for any of the virus diseases, so whatever you're presently seeing—it isn't this.

Crop Work:

Raspberries: Plan for primocane control---timing depends on material or method used and vigor of field.

Blueberries: 1) Scout for winter moth. 2) 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. 1) Plan split applications except for strawberries. 2) Hand weed or spot treat existing weeds

Insect Monitoring News: Winter Moth have been found in the buds of infested blueberries at economically damaging levels in Woodland.

Marketing help for Import Problems: We recently had contact with the Director of the Northwest Trade Adjustment Assistance Center, a organization sponsored by the U.S. Department of Commerce. Their purpose in life is to help businesses "design successful strategies to compete with lower priced imports". This is marketing and business strategy help with some matching grant funds available. Give us a call at the office if you'd like a brochure or contact number for more information.

Gypsum Research: John Mahan, with the Art Wilson Company, was up this week along with 50 tons of gypsum to get our field trials going. This is going to be a four year study which we hope will lead to some good practical data on how much of what type of gypsum is needed to optimize phytophthora root rot control.

Chemical Control:

Saber (2,4-D) has now been approved for the control of broadleaf weeds in blueberries in Washington. It has previously been approved for use in Oregon. Be very careful using this product in blueberries. It can damage plants if improperly used. Follow label directions closely.

Biocontrol: Washington State Department of Ag has registered **Mycotrol O**, a formulation containing live spores of a naturally occurring fungus, *Beauveria bassiana*, for the control of various insect pests in berry and vegetable crops. It has a zero day PHI and four hour REI.

Weather for the week: Thundershowers with a chance of hail early in the week. A little clearing with a chance of frost mid-week and then back to rain/showers. Lows in the 30's. Highs in the 50's.

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.

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

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