

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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Marionberries peak this week, blueberries are coming on strong, and raspberries, although past their peak, continue with good quality fruit. It's about as busy as it gets. Weather looks cool and a little showery early this week.

Trade Commission Ruling: As most of you probably know, the U.S. International Trade Commission voted 6-0 in favor of the Northwest raspberry growers in their fight against imported Chilean fruit. It now goes on to the Commerce Department. This is a very promising development. A lot of time and money are going into this. In our area, Jerry Dobbins and George Thoeny deserve a lot of credit and thanks for spearheading the effort.

Field Days this Week:

Try to attend one or more of the following field days--

July 17, 2001: WSU Raspberry Field Day will be held at the Puyallup Research and Extension Station from 6 pm to 8 pm. Call Pat Moore 253-445-4525 for details.

July 18, 2001: Oregon Caneberry & Blueberry Field Day will be held in Aurora, Oregon at the North Willamette Research and Extension Center. The Program will begin out in the Caneberry and Blueberry plots at 1 O'clock. The agenda is [here!](#).

July 19, 2001: WSU Small Fruit Open House at the Mt. Vernon Station from 3 pm to 5 pm. Blueberries will be emphasized with some raspberry info. More raspberry selections are fruiting at the Puyallup site right now so attend the one there on the 17th for more thorough raspberry information.

Insect Monitoring

Strawberry crown moth

1) There are indications that we might have a serious SCM (strawberry crown moth) problem in caneberries. I put out SCM pheromone lures in a number of the leafroller pheromone traps last week. A couple of fields in the Woodburn area (a Boysenberry and a Kotata field) had over 40 moths in a week. A raspberry field in Scholls, Oregon had over 20 and a Boysen field in Aurora had 18. I checked a total of 11 fields in Oregon and 7 had at least 5 SCM adults in the trap. I don't have numbers on the Washington fields yet. We don't have any developed scale to correlate these numbers with the amount of damage being done but we can say that it's proof that a number of caneberry fields are supporting high populations of SCM.

2). After renovation in a week or two, strawberry fields with SCM infestations will need a second treatment. The Washington fields affected are all in the area south of Ridgefield from the river on the west and the highway (I-5) on the east close to 179th street.

Orange Tortrix leafrollers have had a major hatch this past week. In untreated fields first and second instars are present.

Disease Monitoring:

Spur Blight??: I'd better put some question marks in until we get test results back but we've got a problem showing up in a number of raspberry fields in Woodland, Brush Prairie and Ridgefield. The symptoms include fruiting lateral dieback. The leaves adjacent to the fruit die from the petiole out and eventually the late season fruit also withers. We're having some technical website problems but I'll get some pictures up next week. Any suggestions?

Crop Work

Blackberries: 1) Apply fungicide for fruit mold prevention if needed. 2) Treat for leafrollers and other harvest contaminants if needed.

Strawberries: 1) Treat for SCM if needed. 2) Renovate fields about four weeks after harvest ends. 3) Control weeds in newly planted fields. 4) If necessary, apply Brigade for weevil control.

Weather for the week: Cool with showers on Monday. Highs in the low 70s. Lows in the mid-50s.