

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*

5261 N. Princeton ~ Portland, OR 97203 ~ Office phone: (503) 289-7287 ~ Fax: (503) 289-7229

Cell phone: (503) 970-0922 ~ email info@peerbolt.com ~ <http://www.peerbolt.com>

August 20 2001

Looks about an inch of rain this week. Treat for mold prevention in the late season blackberries. Also, attend the Vancouver meetings (see below) if possible this Wednesday afternoon (it's going to be raining anyway). Where do you want your raspberry commission's assessment money to go? This is a chance to say something about it. Or just to listen...

The **Washington Strawberry Commission's** manager Norval Johanson informs me that less than a quarter of the growers voted on the recent attempt to add a new seat to the commission to represent the Clark and Cowlitz county area. Recent years have shown a large shift in Washington strawberry tonnage toward the southwest counties. This new seat is much needed for proper representation for our area. But with the low ballot returns, it can't be added. If you'd like to find out what's going on with the commission, you can reach Norval at 360-491-6567.

WSU Vancouver Research and Extension Station Field Day will be held August 22 from 1-4 pm at the station on 78th Street. Subjects covered will include irrigation efficiency, small fruit disease, weed, and insect control and new raspberry variety testing. Two Washington and/or Oregon pesticide recertification credit hours. Call Vicky Darnel for more information at 360-576-6030.

A Raspberry Commission Research Priority Meeting has been scheduled to follow the Vancouver Field Day on Wednesday, August 22nd. All growers, researchers and other interested parties are invited. It will take place from 4-5:30 at the Station. Henry Bierlink, the commission exec, and Arturo Flores, the research chair, will be there. Call Henry Bierlink for more information 360-354-8767.

Insect Monitoring

Raspberry Crown Borers: Now is the time to monitor for RCB using pheromone traps. They are just hatching out and will be in their moth stage over the next couple of months. I'll be getting some traps out in the next week. I'm already finding a few withered raspberry canes with borers in them ([click here for photo](#)).. Treatment, if needed, is an insecticide drench in the spring, but now is the time to find out if you will be needing that.

Two-spotted spider mites: Population levels of two-spots are building to significant levels in some raspberry fields.

Disease Monitoring:

Fruit Mold: This week's wet weather will increase mold in the late-ripening blackberries. Get a fungicide application on early in the week if possible.

Powdery Mildew: ([Click here for some photos of the disease](#)) Some of the newly planted Totem strawberry fields have been hit hard by powdery mildew these last few weeks. Some renovated fields have also needed to be treated.

Rust: Defoliation of the primocanes is the major worry with rust at this point in the season but until canework is done, it's pretty difficult (or impossible) to get through the fields to treat anyway.

Soil Tests have been taken for all client fields. I'm waiting for the results and will be getting fertilizer and lime recommendations out as soon as possible.

Crop Work

Strawberries: 1) Check fields for mites. 2) Treat for powdery mildew if needed.

Raspberries: Monitor mites and rust for potential defoliation of primocanes.

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

Weather for the week: Rain in the middle of the week. Highs in the 70s except for Wednesday when it'll be around 65. Lows in the 50s.