

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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Some late ripening blackberries and Elliot blueberries are still being harvested. Mold problems showed up after the rain. The dryland fields sure got a well-needed shot of moisture.

Insect Monitoring

Raspberry Crown Borers: Now is the time to monitor for RCB using pheromone traps. They'll be in their moth stage over the next couple of months. Treatment, if needed, is an insecticide drench in the spring, but now is the time to find out if you will be needing that (fall treatment is possible but only if there's enough moisture to wash the insecticide well down into the root zone). If you've still got leafroller traps out, just slip a raspberry crown moth pheromone lure into the same trap.

Cyclamen Mites: Some strawberry fields are showing significant cyclamen mite populations. Look for distorted new growth and decreased vigor. They're really too small to see with the naked eye.

Disease Monitoring:

Fruit Mold: The wet weather increased mold in the late-ripening blackberries.

Powdery Mildew: Incidence of the disease has decreased a lot since the wet weather moved through. This is a fungus that actually prefers dry weather.

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 to get through the fields to treat anyway.

Research Update:

The deadline for research projects funded by the USDA through the Northwest Center for Small Fruit Research was last Friday. We've applied for funds to do two projects in cooperation with Dr. Lynell Tanigoshi (WSU, Vancouver). One involves the ongoing leafroller control project. This will be the third and final year for it. The other project has to do with furthering our understanding and control of root weevils in raspberries and strawberries. A third project that has been funded by the Small Fruit Center is our work with Jack Pinkerton, USDA nematologist, looking at the potential of cover crops to help control nematodes in raspberries.

Soil Test results are in and I'll 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. 3) Control weeds.

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: Dry. Highs mostly in the 70s but probably going into the 80s Friday & Saturday. Lows in the mid 50s.

Upcoming Events

9/7 & 9/8 ~ Pacific Northwest Christmas Tree Association Tree Fair and Trade Show will be this coming Friday and Saturday (9/7 & 8) at the Embassy Suites Hotel at the Portland Airport. Admission is \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members. Call the Association at 503-364-2942 for information.

9/22 ~ Christmas Tree Workshop: WSU Cooperative Extension in cooperation with Clark College is having a Christmas Tree workshop at the WSU branch campus on Saturday September 22 from 8:30-3:30. You need to register by September 19. Call Charles Brun 360-397-6060 x 7713 for a brochure or information.