

Peerbolt Crop Management News & Opinions

Seasonal updates sent out weekly during the growing season, and sporadically when we have news & opinions to share during the off-season. ~ *Tom & Anna Peerbolt*

December 28, 2001---Happy New Year!!!

It's time to consider **winter weed control options**. In strawberries we have an emergency use label for **Spartan** (sulfentrazone) in effect until January 31st. **Goal** (oxyfluorfen), the chemical option for dormant applications in previous years, is no longer labeled for use in strawberries. Quackgrass in caneberries can also be addressed with **Casoron** (dichlobenil) or **Kerb** (pronamide) while the plants are dormant.

The Washington Strawberry Commission has decided to go ahead with another attempt to add a position to represent the Clark and Cowlitz county area. Last year's attempt was not successful due to a low vote total. 30% of growers and 30% of production need to vote in favor for it to pass.

Currant and Gooseberry plant grower Dick McGinnis gave a talk at the Lynden Small Fruit Workshop on growing black currants. His website has information on these crops at: <http://www.berrycrops.net>.

Bob Martin, USDA Virologist, reports that a survey of blueberry growers this year came up with no sign of the more virulent strain of the blueberry **Scorch virus** south of the Canadian border. There is an active effort ongoing to try to quarantine plants from crossing into the U.S. in an attempt to keep the virus out of our area.

Chemical Update:

Aim (Carfentrizone) has been labeled for caneburning. It should be able to substitute for Goal without being as hard on the plants. It will burn back quickly but not hold the primocanes back. It also has no activity on grasses and would require tank mixing for grass control.

The EPA is presently reviewing **Thiodan (Endosulfan)**. It's used by small fruit growers primarily for cyclamen mite control in strawberries.

New website: Check out the new website put together by WSU extension at: <http://www.foodfarm.wsu.edu>. It's called the Food and Farm Connection and has a lot of useful information and contacts for farming in western Washington. A number of our local extension people put a lot of work into getting this site together.

Calendar

Jan 8-10 Western Washington Horticultural Association Conference ~ Seatac Marriott, Seattle. They're combining with the Washington State Farmers Market Association this year. The 9th and 10th with have small fruit seminars and are concentrating on alternative small fruit crops. You can see their agenda and register online at <http://www.wwha.wsu.edu>

Jan 9 Marion Berry Marketing Association will meet in Aurora Oregon at the North Willamette Research and Extension Center 1:00 pm - 4:30 pm. For more information, contact Jim Steel at 503-628-2176.

Jan 15 Oregon Blueberry Commission will have its Annual Research & Public Relations Roundup meeting at NWREC in Aurora, OR. 9:00 to 11:00. The agenda available at <http://berrygrape.orst.edu/news/broundup.htm>

Jan 17 North Willamette Horticultural Society meeting (berry day) ~ Airport Ramada Inn, Portland The program will begin at 8:30 am and will cover topics such as Weed Control, U.S. Trade Policy, Principles of Fruit Rot Control, Orange Tortrix Control strategies plus much more. For registration information, contact [Heidi Williams](#)

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