



March 4, 2002

There's a good possibility that Washington blueberry growers won't have **Orbit** (Propiconazole) available for mummyberry control this year. Mike Norman, with the Washington Department of Ag, says the Section 18 application won't be going out to EPA until this Wednesday or Thursday and that EPA usually takes about 50 days to approve them. We're probably about ten days away from needing to spray in SW Washington. Oregon has an OK to use **Indar** (Fenbuconazole). **Funginex** (Triforine), if you can find it, is still legal to use in both states.

If you want more information, you can call Mike Norman at the Department of Ag at 360-902-1851 or Alan Schreiber with the Agriculture Development Group at 509-543-9757

Disease Update: Mummyberries are beginning to sprout in area blueberry fields. Be ready to treat when the vegetative buds start opening (Not the flower buds but the vegetative buds). The overwintering mummyberries send up a mushroom like fruiting cup at this time of year ([click here for picture of fruiting cups](#)). It releases spores that land on new vegetative growth, infecting it. The new growth is susceptible from budbreak to about 1 inch long. About three weeks after a shoot is infected it will produce a secondary spore release, which then infects the blossoms. This second infection produces the hard "mummyberries" that drop to the ground, overwinter, and release spores the next year. To stop the first stage, the vegetative buds need to have a fungicide present,

- If you're trying to avoid chemical applications, now is the time to destroy as many of the developing fruiting cups as possible by raking or cultivating the soil.
- For chemical controls see above.

We've now added a link on our website <http://www.peerbolt.com> to the small fruit **Cold Storage reports** that are posted on the Northwest Berry and Grape Infonet. Thanks to Rufus Lalone for compiling these reports and to Wei Wang for posting them.

Fertilizer: The first applications should go on blueberries and caneberrries between mid-March and the end of the month. **To clients:** I'll be getting your recommendations to you this week.

Chemical control Update: A petition to add caneberrries and blueberries to the **Elevate** (Fenhexamid) label has gone to EPA. Arvesta (the former Tomen Agro) is anticipating having it available for use in those crops by April. Elevate is a low risk fungicide that controls grey mold.

Cropwork:

Blueberries: 1) Finish pruning 2) Pre emergent herbicide can be applied. 3) Copper or Bordeaux can be applied for bacterial blight control. 4) If mummyberry has been a problem in the field, plan control strategy. 5) Scout for winter moth.

Strawberries: 1) Scout for root weevil and Strawberry Crown Moth in weak growth areas.

All Caneberries: 1) Finish canework 2) Pre emergent herbicide can be applied. 3) Ridomil can be applied for root rot control. 4) Lime sulfur (with or without oil) can be applied for disease and mite control. 5) Apply drench for crown borer control if field has shown previous damage.

Weather: Wet and colder. Highs around 50. Lows in the mid 30's.

Calendar:

March 19 Washington Red Raspberry Commission meeting ~ Vancouver campus of WSU In conjunction with the Extension Workshop for Berry Growers. Regular commission meeting. For more information, call the commission's executive director, Henry Bierlink, at 360-354-8767.

March 19 Extension Workshop for Berry Growers ~ Vancouver campus of WSU A full day of grower information organized by the WSU Vancouver Research and Extension Unit. To see the agenda, [click here](#).

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>