

Small Fruit Update



Disseminating information for the [Washington Red Raspberry Commission](#) , [Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission](#) and [Oregon Strawberry Commission](#).

September 7, 2003

Nice change in the weather this last weekend. Not as much rain as we would have liked in the South but it's a start. Late season blacks and some of the late ripening blueberries continue with harvest.

Proposed Changes at the WSU Vancouver Research and Extension Station

The newly proposed budget for the Station eliminates three primary staff support positions that include the administrative assistant (Vickie Darnel) and the only remaining field maintenance personnel (Martin and Dave). If implemented as proposed it will have a crippling impact on field research/maintenance and office/record maintenance. WSU-supported small fruit research in the southern area of the state will once again be further weakened.

Commission meetings

All three of the commissions sponsoring this newsletter have meetings coming up in the next couple of weeks, another sure sign that the season is changing.

September 10 The Washington Red Raspberry Commission is meeting at the WSU Research Station Auditorium in Mt. Vernon, WA., 1-5 pm. For information call 360-354-8767 or email WAredberry@aol.com.

September 17 The Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission is meeting at the North Willamette Station (NWREC) in Aurora, OR at 6:00 pm For information call 541-758-4043 or [e-mail](#).

September 24 The Oregon Strawberry Commission is meeting at Alessandro's restaurant in Salem, OR at 5:00 pm For information call 541-758-4043 or [e-mail](#).

September 9 Small Fruits Breakfast Meeting at 7:00 am at the Dutch Mother's restaurant 405 Front Street, Lynden 354-2174 Review of the season and discussion of research projects, pest status and activities in raspberries and blueberries.

Update on the Proposed pesticide buffer zones court case

As I mentioned a few weeks ago, a US District Court judge has ruled that he intends to **impose buffers on all applications of 54 pesticides** near streams and other bodies of water accessible to salmon. This ruling has the potential to **impact many small fruit growers in the Northwest**. For in depth information go to <http://agr.wa.gov/PestFert/EnvResources/Lawsuit.htm>. It includes a list of frequently asked questions, the pesticides in question and other case details.

I have also received information from Heather Hansen with Washington Friends of Farms & Forests. (Her letter is attached). There's certainly some positive developments in the case but we'll still need to wait and see just who, where and how small fruit growers will be affected.

Chemical Control Update

1)Pristine (pyraclostrobin and boscalid) has just received a full label for use in all berry crops. This is a very good low risk fungicide with activity against botrytis, powdery mildew and wide spectrum of other fungal diseases. It has a zero day PHI.

2) Stinger (clopyralid) herbicide has (finally) received a 24c label for use in strawberries in Oregon. I suspect Washington's has also come through but I haven't heard yet. The Oregon label has a fall use window of September 15 to November 15. It has excellent activity against many broad leaf weeds including thistle, clover, vetch and dandelion. A waiver of liability will need to be signed by the grower before it can be used. Check the label carefully.

Insect Update

1) Orange tortrix: A late season hatch is causing some contaminant problems in late ripening blackberries. Scout closely. Bacillus thuringiensis formulations can be effective on newly hatched larvae.

2)Blueberry Tip Midge This is a very small insect whose larva feeds on blueberry floral and vegetative buds. Symptoms of infestation include premature floral bud abortion, leaf curl, stunted growth, and blackened tips. Todd Murray just sent the pictures he took in Whatcom county this season of suspected damage ([click here for to see them](#)). We're still determining the extent of this pest and its damage in our region.

3) Spider mites are building up in some raspberry fields. Miticide applications are not recommended this late in the season .Click on the following to see twospotted and yellow mites

(<http://whatcom.wsu.edu/ag/comhort/nooksack/ipmweb/Insect%204%20Sheet.html>).

4) Weevils: Black Vine and Rough Strawberry Root Weevil adults are present in many strawberry and raspberry fields. The cooler, wetter weather should make Rough Strawberry adults more active. Scout for them down in the crown and in the detritus around the crown.

5) Redberry mite infected berries are showing up in some late season blackberries. Berries never ripen but remain shiny, brick red and hard. Mites feed within the fruit drupelets and are too small to be seen without a strong hand lens or scope. Treatment consists of preventative sulfur applications from budbreak through bloom.

6) Cyclamen mites. Look for crinkled, distorted new growth in strawberries. If left unchecked at this time of year, yield losses could result next year.

Disease Update:

1) Powdery Mildew has been occurring at treatable levels in some newly planted Southern strawberry fields. Leaves curl up and expose a purple coloration on the bottom.

2) Botrytis Fruit mold. Late ripening blacks are now showing some mold with the wet weather. Stay on top of picks to prevent a build up. Some growers are now applying fungicides.

Cropwork:

Caneberries: 1) Treat for insect harvest contaminants in late season blackberries if needed. 2) Fungicide can be applied for fruit mold prevention. 3) Scout for redberry mite damage in blackberries. 4) Take soil samples.

Blueberries: 1) Scout for mummyberry infected fruit. 2) Scout for weevil feeding in the lower suckers. 3) Scout for Blueberry Tip Midge.

Strawberries: 1) Scout for weevils. 2) Scout for cyclamen mites. 3) Scout for two-spotted mites. 4) Take soil samples. 5) Scout for powdery mildew.

Cranberries: 1) Scout for black-headed fireworm. 2) Can apply fungicide to prevent fruit mold.

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