

News from **Peerbolt Crop Management**

Seasonal updates sent out weekly during the growing season, and sporadically when we have news to share during the off-season.

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Washington Red Raspberry Commission News: The commission met on Wednesday 4/12 in Bellingham. Three items of note: (call me if you want more information about these issues)

- 1) Washington State Dept of Ag will be having a **public hearing** on the proposed regulations for red raspberry grades and standards. **Time:** 10 A.M. Wednesday, May 10. **Place:** Whatcom County Courthouse in Lynden. **Issues:** **1)** Standards for what berries can be used for freezing, puree and juice. **2)** Establish container marking requirements. For more information contact your commissioners: Jerry Dobbins 360-225-8556 and Merril Firestone 360-573-4638
- 2) **Section 18 Pesticide Compliance Project:** If you have fields within the Chehalis or Cowlitz river watersheds (and some other rivers throughout the state), you will need to comply with new reporting regulations. These include pre-notification of any Section 18 chemical applications. Call WDA at 360-902-2040 for more info.
- 3) The **annual meeting** will be held in Lynden next year instead of at the Western Washington Horticulture Assn. Convention in Seatac (along with an equipment show, hopefully).

Degree Day Update: Rufus LaLone informs me that his degree day model for predicting when strawberries will ripen is showing us as of 4/12 to be 5-7 days ahead of last year but still 10 days behind normal. We caught up a lot this last week.

Crops:

Raspberries: Caneburn when new primocanes are 3-4" tall. Apply Poast if you've got grass problems.

Blueberries: **1)** Apply Orbit (in Washington) for Mummyberry control. Use Indar in Oregon. Repeat in 10-14 days up to three applications. Funginex may still be used in both states. **2)** Bloom has come along very quickly this week. Be sure to get the bees in when needed.

Evergreen Blackberries: Apply lime sulfur for red berry mite control when lateral growth reaches 2-6" long.

Strawberries: Apply Poast if you've got grass problems. Foliar fertilizers and/or fungicides can also be applied. Keep on top of any emerging weed problems.

Chemical Updates: A section 18 has been granted for **Orbit 3.6 EC** for yellow rust control in Red Raspberries in Washington and Oregon. May 1st is the first legal application date. We're still waiting to get a clearance for the use of **Switch** in raspberries for botrytis control.

Insect monitoring update:

1) I found a winter moth infestation in blueberries in the Battleground area that was at treatable levels. Look for flower clusters with dead spots. Open them up to look for webbing, frass and/or a small greenish caterpillar.

2) Leafroller traps in Marion fields continue to build. Very low numbers yet in the raspberries and evergreen blackberries. They're coming...

3) Now is a good time to check strawberry fields for root weevil larvae. Spot-check all fields by digging up a few plants especially in areas adjacent to potential weevil harboring vegetation. In weak areas where growth seems retarded, check more closely.

Disease monitoring update: Mummyberry spore cups are actively releasing spores in blueberries. Keep on top of Orbit (or Indar or Funginex) applications if you've had mummyberry problems in the past.

Week's Weather Outlook: Cloudy, showers and rain. Cloudy, showers and rain. Cloudy, showers and rain...Lows in the mid 40's. Highs in the 50's.