

# 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*

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**Rust in raspberries** is a top priority this week. There is a lot showing up this year. It's also just changing spore stages making it the right **time to treat**. The weather's going into a showery pattern, which is ideal for the disease to spread. Look for the bright orange spots on the tops of the leaves.

## Crops:

**Raspberries:** 1) Apply Orbit for rust control if needed. 2) Apply foliar fungicides and/or foliar fertilizers. 3) First blooms opened this week. At 10% bloom go on with fungicide for botrytis control. 4) Get bees in as needed.

**Blueberries:** Apply fungicide for botrytis control.

**Evergreen Blackberries:** 1) Foliar fertilizers and/or fungicides can be applied. 2) Apply lime sulfur for red berry mite control.

**Strawberries:** 1) Foliar fertilizers and/or fungicides can be applied. 2) Apply fungicide for botrytis control every 7-10 days.

## Chemical Updates:

1) The latest on **Switch** in raspberries for botrytis control – It is coming! The soonest we'll have a Section 18 approval is a week from Monday and the soonest Novartis will have the product here will be a week from Wednesday. Right now the only option I'd recommend is **Captan**. The other labeled options have shown resistance problems. 2) Strawberry fruit rot fungicide options are **Captan, Thiram, Rovral** and **Elevate**. In most circumstances this year I'm recommending a **Thiram, Elevate** rotation.

**Caneberry leaf test results:** I've got most of the results and am writing up client recommendations. Boron and magnesium are low (as usual) on quite a few tests. Foliar boron and foliar applications of epsom salts will be beneficial for a number of fields.

**Frost Damage Update:** It turns out we had a little strawberry frost damage in our area on April 24<sup>th</sup>. One 30-acre field in the Ridgefield area had about 10% loss and two other smaller fields had about a 5% loss.

## Insect monitoring update:

1) Mite counts remained pretty stable this week, although there is a buildup of eggs in a couple of fields. An oil application would be beneficial if that's your situation. 2) Leafroller trap numbers remained stable. The major larval species in the fields right now is winter moth. 3) Look out for Cyclamen Mite damage in strawberries. It usually shows up as very distorted new growth. I haven't seen any yet. 4) Root weevil larvae are now pupating.

## Disease monitoring update:

1) Rust spores are showing up in raspberries. They're changing spore stages and its time to treat with Orbit. 2) Tomato Ringspot Virus leaf symptoms can now be seen on some infected raspberry plants as a chlorotic chevron pattern on some of the leaves. The infection isn't always visible. If you have plants with low vigor and crumbly fruit, a leaf sample should be taken. Primocane leaves should be collected for testing since fruiting cane leaves will often test negative even if the disease is present. 3) **Blueberry Viruses:** There are actually two viruses that could show up right now. With **Shock** the flowers and buds suddenly die but the shoots remain green and the plants will put out another flush of growth. The plants recover and will produce again next year. **Scorch** is a lot less common but a lot more serious. Buds and shoots die back just as the blooms begin to open. The plants repeat the pattern every year and don't recover. They should be removed as soon as the disease is diagnosed.

**Weather:** Maybe a dry day or two this weekend. Looks pretty showery the rest of the week.

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