

Small Fruit Update

News & Opinions from Peerbolt Crop Management sent out weekly during the growing season, and sporadically when we have something to share during the off-season. ~ *Tom & Anna Peerbolt*
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Crop Work:

All caneberries: Finish the canework ASAP.

Evergreen blackberries: Dormant spray of lime/sulfur in mid-February for red berry mites.

Blueberries: 1) Do pruning; 2) Start scouting for winter moth.

Strawberries: Start scouting for root weevil damage and overwintering root weevil adults.

All crops: If you're planning on using a pre-emergent for weeds, and didn't use any in the fall, apply one whenever you get a weather break now.

Budget cuts at the WSU Research Station in Vancouver mean that Drs. Steve Klauer and Chuhe Chen will only be working there for one more year. Since they were carrying on the work of Dr. Scott Cameron, who departed last year, WSU will not have a full-time small fruit horticulturist faculty position, which leaves our industry with a much weakened research base within the WSU system.

Winter Moth Survey: Joe DeFrancesco and Gina Koskela from OSU conducted a winter moth survey this past winter including a number of fields in our area.. We've already gotten some useful information from their work showing large differences in moth concentrations in the region, and introduced a new pheromone monitoring tool for this pest that alerts us to its presence before damage has been done.

Root Weevil Survey: Thanks to the cooperation of Dr. Jim Fisher, with the Northwest Center for Small Fruit Research, we will be conducting a root weevil survey of area strawberry fields. Kathy Ackerman will collect weevils on a weekly basis and send them to his lab in Corvallis for analysis. we'll also further our understanding of the degree day prediction models of weevil development using the hobo temperature recorders WSU has placed in a number of fields.

Strawberry Crown Moth in Clark County: Last fall some strawberry fields in the Ridgefield, WA, area were found to be infested with Strawberry Crown Moth. Area growers should be aware of this pest which cannot be controlled once larvae are established in the roots and crowns. The adults don't fly until June but if you have a field with undiagnosed weak areas, check it for the presence of SCM larvae in the crowns now. Heavily infested fields need to be plowed under to prevent the spread of the pest. Lightly infested fields will need to be monitored and treated when adult flights begin.

Up-coming Meetings:

Feb 15-17 Horticultural Growers Shortcourse & Trade Show ~ Abbotsford, B.C. Looks like a good agenda and great meeting. Good time to get an idea of what's going on in Northern Washington and Canada. Call Tom (503-289-7287) for details.

Feb 21-24 Farm Direct Marketing Convention & Trade Show. A four-day convention made up of two days of tours of Puget Sound farming operations and two days of seminars. Being held at the Howard Johnson Hotel in Everett, Washington. Contact Mary & Reid Carleton (425-334-2297) or carltonfarm@earthlink.net for information.

March 6 Willamette Valley Ag Professional Association ~ McNary Restaurant, Keizer, OR. Regular luncheon meeting, guests encouraged to attend. Noon to around 1:30 pm; lunch \$7.50. For more information, contact Dan McGrath 503-931-8307.

March 22 Small Fruit Growers Workshop & Washington Red Raspberry Commission meeting ~ Vancouver, WA All day workshop put on by the Vancouver Research & Extension Station. Will be held at the WSU branch campus in Vancouver. The commission will have its southern area meeting on the same day and in the same location. Call Terri (360-576-6030) for more information.