

# 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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**May 15, 2001**

**Strawberry crown moth** showed up last year as a major pest in the Ridgefield area. This pest has traditionally been a problem in Washington County, Oregon, and appears to be extending its range into SW Washington. Late May is the time to begin monitoring for the adult SCM. I'll be getting the pheromone traps out this week. Here's a brief primer on strawberry crown moth:

- 1) Life cycle:** The moth overwinters as a dormant larva in the crown or roots of strawberry plants. Pupation occurs from May through July and the adult moths fly from late May through July. Eggs are laid singly on the plants and larvae emerge 10-14 days later and feed on the crown and roots through the fall. There's one generation per year and four to six larval instars.
- 2) Description:** Adult is a clear-winged moth that looks a lot like a yellow jacket. The larva is white with a dark head and when mature is about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch long.
- 3) Control strategy:** Pheromone lures are available to monitor adult emergence. The first insecticide application should be made 10-14 days after consistent adult emergence begins (late May-early June). Consistent emergence is when 2-3 adults are caught in traps on two or more consecutive days. A second application should be made two weeks later.
- 4) Registered Chemicals:** Guthion (azinphos-methyl) and Thiodan (endosulfan) are labeled for the above sprays. Lorsban can also be applied immediately after harvest (Top plants before application).
- 5) Control problems:** 1) Treatments often need to occur during harvest. 2) SCM adults have a long flight period. 3) Once inside the strawberry crown, the larvae are very difficult to kill.

## Insect Monitoring

**Mites:** McDaniel mites in the Brush Prairie area are at treatable levels in one field. So far this is the only area McDaniel mites have been identified. They seem to consistently build up earlier in the season than the other species.

**Leafrollers:** Obliquebanded and Orange Tortrix are the dominant larval species now in the fields.

**Weevils:** Weevil larvae are pupating. Newly emerged adults are beginning to appear along with leaf notching.

**Cyclamen Mites:** Be on the look out for distorted new growth in strawberry plants. It could be a sign of cyclamen mites.

**Redberry Mites:** Apply sulfur to blackberries when laterals are 2-6 inches long to help prevent redberry mite problems.

## Disease Monitoring:

**Fruit Molds (Botrytis, etc):** The recommended time to begin preventative fungicide applications is 10% bloom.

**Rust:** Raspberry fields with rust problems should be treated as soon as possible.

## Chemical Control:

**1) Fruit mold control fungicide options in blueberries** include **Rovral, Captan, Benlate, and Ziram**. Of these only Captan and Rovral have shown reasonable control.

**2) Fruit mold control fungicide options in strawberries** include **Captan, Elevate, JMS Stylet Oil, and Thiram**. Elevate is great on botrytis but needs to be tank mixed or rotated with another material to assure broad spectrum fruit mold control.

**3) Fruit mold control fungicide options in raspberries** include **Switch, Rovral, and Captan**. Rovral has shown some resistance problems. **Ronilan** is still registered for this season but will be canceled by BASF in October of this year.

**Tissue testing:** Results of the recent caneberry tissue tests showed a pattern of low **boron** levels in many fields. Foliar boron added to fungicide applications can help prevent deficiencies.

## Crop Work

**Caneberries:** 1) Treat for rust if necessary. 2) Bring in bees by 10% bloom. 3) Apply fungicide application for fruit mold from 10% bloom on. 4) Can apply foliar fertilizers. 5) Can apply sulfur to blackberries for redberry mite control.

**Blueberries:** Apply fungicide applications for fruit mold from 10% bloom on.

**Strawberries:** 1) Apply fungicide application for fruit mold from 10% bloom on. 2) Can apply foliar fungicide and/or foliar fertilizers.

**Weather for the week:** Some showers Wednesday then drying out and mild. Highs in the 60s and lows in the 40s.

## Upcoming Events:

**May 17, 2001: Oregon Strawberry Commission** will be meeting in Aurora, Oregon at the North Willamette Research and Extension Center. It will begin at 5:00 pm. For more information, call Janni at 541-758-4043 or e-mail [Berry Works](mailto:Berry Works).

**May 19, 2001: Oregon Blueberry Growers Association BBQ and Tour** will start at 9:30 am with tours of well-established blueberry farms plus a fully catered BBQ. For more information and to get signed up, contact Judy Ebert by phone (503-663-6451) or by [e-mail](mailto:Berry Works).

**May 30 Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission** will be meeting in Aurora, Oregon at the North Willamette Research and Extension Center. It will begin at 6:00 pm. More info., call Janni at 541-758-4043 or e-mail [Berry Works](mailto:Berry Works)

**June 12, 2001: Oregon Strawberry Field Day** will be held in Aurora, Oregon at the North Willamette Research and Extension Center.

**June 14, 2001: Washington Strawberry Field Day** will be held in Puyallup, Washington from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.