

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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Most of the Meeker raspberries on the western side of Clark and Cowlitz counties passed the 10% bloom stage this past week. LaCenter and Brush Prairie are probably a week to ten days behind as is Sauvie Island. Kotata blackberries are well along in their bloom while Marionberries are just beginning to bloom in the Woodburn and Aurora areas. It's going to be a warm week going into the eighties the next three days.

More Pictures! We're going to start using more photo illustrations in this update. This allows me to take pictures in the field with the digital camera and pass on the images to you the same week—kinda neat. We're still working out the system so if you have any trouble pulling up the pictures, please let us know ASAP. For those of you still getting this by fax, sorry we can't share the pictures via that technology, but if you've got an email address we'll switch you over.

Insect Monitoring

Strawberry crown moth: I got all the pheromone traps out in the fields this week. So far no sign of adult flights which would signal the time to treat. To see what the larvae look like, [click here](#).

Mites: No new mite outbreaks in the area. This week's warm and dry weather will make it a priority to watch for build-ups in strawberries and raspberries.

Leafrollers: Larval numbers are lower this week with obliquebanded the dominant species in the fields. Trap numbers are building in raspberries. Blackberry trap numbers remain very high in most fields.

Weevils: Pupation rates are as high as 60% in some fields. We're picking up some of the newly emerged adults.

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

Disease Monitoring:

Blueberry viruses: There are two viruses that are showing up right now. With **Shock (Ilarvirus)** 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** (Carlavirus) 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. [Click here to see pictures of both viruses](#) taken this week on a farm in LaCenter, WA.

Last year a new strain of Scorch was diagnosed in Canadian blueberries that to my knowledge, hasn't yet been found in the western U.S.. It's a more virulent than the strain previously found in our area, in that it affects more varieties. If you come across any plants with symptoms similar to these, please have them tested immediately so that we can identify any new infections and (hopefully) prevent the spread of the more serious strain.

Fruit Molds (Botrytis, etc): The dry warm weather will help keep down later fruit infections. The recommended time to begin preventative fungicide applications is 10% bloom.

Chemical Control:

1) 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.

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

3) 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.

Crop Work

Caneberries: 1) 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: Warm and dry. Lows in the high 40s. Highs in the 70s & 80s.

Upcoming Events:

May 29 Washington Red Raspberry Commission is having a grower meeting in Lynden from 7-9 pm at Homestead Farm to discuss winter damage, market outlook and the anti-dumping effort against Chile. Call Henry Bierlink at 360-354-8767 for more info.

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](#)

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.