

**Progress Report to the Agricultural Research Foundation, 2006
Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission**

Title: Improving Percent Bud Break in Red Raspberries

Project Leaders: Diane Kaufman and Wei Yang, District Extension Agents, NWREC/OSU

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Funding History: \$2,600 from ORBC in 2005

Objective: To determine whether one or two applications of hydrogen cyanamide (Dormex) applied prior to bud break will increase percent bud break and/or bud break uniformity in red raspberry.

Progress: The experiment was conducted in an established raspberry planting in a cooperating grower's field in Jefferson, OR. The following treatments were applied to raspberry canes on February 24, 2006: a 2% concentration of Dormex in the equivalent of 100 and 200 gallons of spray/A; a 4% concentration of Dormex in the equivalent of 100 and 200 gallons of spray/A (the rates traditionally applied to blueberries), and an untreated control. Buds were swollen, but had not yet begun to break at time of application. Treatments were evaluated on April 22, 2006.

Results: Rather than increasing bud break, Dormex burned and dried buds in all treated plots. Damage was most severe in plots treated with the 4% concentration and ranged between 90 and 100% bud death. Plots treated with the 2% concentration suffered a 50 to 75% bud loss. A portion of funding for this project was used to reimburse the grower for crop loss. We do not expect any lingering negative effects on treated plants.