

Small Fruit Update



Disseminating information for the [Washington Red Raspberry Commission](#).

February 24, 2003

Silvan blackberries are pushing buds with some small leaves showing in the Willamette Valley. Marions, Boysens, raspberries and blueberries all have swelled buds in the South. Looks like we're a week or so ahead of last year.

Last **October's big freeze** left some tip dieback in susceptible blackberries in the South. I've even seen some raspberry tip damage. These tips should probably just be clipped off. Impacts on potential crop yield looks to be minimal.

First weekly grower meeting in Woodland: I'm going to start hosting a Friday morning meeting at the Oak Tree restaurant in Woodland at 7:00 AM. All are welcome. The first one will be this Friday (February 28). Very informal. Just a weekly chance for us to touch base and share information. Hope some of you guys show up....

Raspberry Crown Borer treatment: Our mild winters, over the past few years, appear to have allowed borer populations to increase. If you've had problems with borers, March is the time to treat with an insecticide drench. Treatments should be made for two successive years.

Innovative blueberry bird control: At the Abbotsford meeting last week, there was a presentation on a new type of bird control device. It is an overhead wire stretched at about a 10 or 12-foot height across the field. The wire has flags on it and is attached to a pulley system that pulls it back and forth above the plants. Very interesting. It's call "The Silent Sentinel". For more information call Walter Laidler 604-535-1884.

Disease Update:

Mummyberries are just beginning to sprout in Oregon and Southern Washington blueberry fields. Now is the time to plan your control strategy. The overwintering mummyberries send up a mushroom like fruiting cup at this time of year ([click here for picture of fruiting cups](#)). It releases spores that land on new vegetative growth, infecting it. The new growth is susceptible from budbreak to about 1 inch long. About three weeks after a shoot is infected it will produce a secondary spore release, which then infects the blossoms. This second infection produces the hard "mummyberries" that drop to the ground, overwinter, and release spores the next year. To stop the first stage, the vegetative buds need to have a fungicide present,

- If you're trying to avoid chemical applications, now is the time to start destroying or burying as many of the developing fruiting cups as possible by raking or cultivating the soil.
- For chemical controls: We should be receiving the needed emergency labels within the next couple of weeks. Treat when the vegetative buds start opening (Not the flower buds but the vegetative buds)

Chemical control update

Griffin has voluntarily cancelled the **Boa (paraquat)** herbicide label for all berry crops. We still have paraquat available from Zeneca as **Gramoxone Extra**.

Cropwork:

All Caneberries: 1) Finish canework. 2) Can apply Casoron (Dichlobenil) for weed control. Especially good on quackgrass. 3) Can apply Ridomil for Phytophthora root rot control. 4) Pre-emergent weed control can be applied.

Evergreen Blackberries: Dormant spray of lime/sulfur or elemental sulfur in mid-February for Redberry mites.

Blueberries: 1) Pruning. 2) Scout for bud damage & determine cause. 3) Dormant oil can be applied for scale and winter moth egg control. 4) Copper or Bordeaux can be applied for bacterial blight control. 4) Pre-emergent weed control can be applied.

Strawberries: 1) Pre-emergent weed control can be applied.

Weather for the week:

(South): Starting out clear with cold nights early in the week with lows in the mid 20s and highs around 50. Getting wet and warmer around Thursday with lows in the upper 30s and highs in the mid 50s.

(North): Clear and cold Monday with a low in the lower 20s. Cloudy with a chance of rain the rest of the week with lows in the mid 30s and highs in the upper 40s.

Calendar:

March 1 Oregon Farm Direct Marketing Conference starts at 8:30 am at the Valley River Inn, Eugene, OR. Call 800-365-0201 for information.

March 3-5 A Fruit and Vegetable Processing Short Course will be held at OSU campus. Click [here](#) for details.

March 11 Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission Meeting will be at the Holiday Inn in Wilsonville, OR at 11:00 am. For information call 541-758-4043 or [e-mail](#)

March 13 Lingonberry Conference at the National Germplasm Repository, Peoria Road, Corvallis, Or. Call Ross or Linda at 541-682-7308 for information.

March 19 WSU Extension Workshop for Berry Growers, Vancouver campus of WSU, Call 360-576-6030 for information. Click ([here](#)) for information.

March 19 Washington Red Raspberry Commission meeting will take place following the WSU grower workshop beginning around 3:30 at the Vancouver WSU campus. Call Henry at 360-354-8767 for more information.

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