

Small Fruit Update



Disseminating information for the [Washington Red Raspberry Commission](#) and the [Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission](#)

March 17, 2003

Smucker's has decided to **close** its Woodburn Processing Plant at the end of this season. Sure makes it hard on the over 100 people who are losing their jobs as well as the many loyal growers who are losing their market. It's also a difficult situation over at the **OSU Extension Service** where it seems even more of the small fruit extension people are likely to **lose their jobs**. These are our friends and business partners and their loses will not only weaken our industry but will make our lives a little less full. Keep them in your thoughts and help out where you can.

We're adding a new sponsor this week. The **Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission** has come on board. Welcome!. Any ORBC members (or anyone else for that matter) can subscribe to this Weekly Update by going to our website at [www.peerbolt.com](#). Click on the News and Calendar link and then click on the "if you want to be added" hotlink" (on the left below the picture). That will give you a place to give us you name and email address.

WSU Extension Workshop for Berry Growers at the Vancouver campus of WSU happens this Wednesday (March 19th). It'll go from 8 AM to 2:30. Click ([here](#)) to see an agenda or get directions. Six Washington re-certification credits and five Oregon credits are available. You can also call 360-576-6030 for information

Following the above workshop the **Washington Red Raspberry Commission meeting** will take place beginning around 3:30 at the Vancouver WSU campus. Call Henry at 360-354-8767 for more information. This is the only meeting scheduled for the southern part of the state this year. There are a lot of important issues on the agenda, please come and support the commissioners if you can.

This Thursday and Friday we're having a workshop for the **Caneberry Pest Management Strategic Plan** for the Northwest. Around 30 industry people will meet in Portland and help finalize this detailed document that can be used by the EPA, USDA and other regulatory agencies to understand our pest control problems and solutions. It will also be useful in clarifying for our industry what our regulatory, research and education priorities are. We'll have an **updated draft available** in a couple of months after the workshop. [Email](#) us or call 503-289-7287 if you'd like to see it.

There will be **no Friday morning grower meeting in Woodland** this week because Tom will be at the Caneberry Pest Management Strategic Plan workshop. The meeting will resume the following Friday (3/28).

Chemical control update

1) Switch (cyprodinil and fludioxonil) has been issued a full label for fruit mold control in caneberries. This is great news. It gives us two low risk, new generation fungicides, **Switch** and **Elevate** (fenhexamid) along with **Captan** for mold control. These are the best options for mold control that we've ever had.

2) Indar (fenbuconazole) has been granted a Section 18 emergency label for mummyberry control in Oregon. **Orbit (propiconazole)** has been granted a similar label for use in Washington. Growers need to have the Section 18 label in hand at the time of application. Rates and restrictions are the same as in previous years.

Disease Update:

1) Mummyberry: Many southern blueberry fields are at or even past green tip stage so protective fungicide applications should be applied if mummyberry has been a problem. 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.

2) This from a Brian Cieslar up in Lynden on Blueberry Scorch:
"Dear Blueberry Industry,

We need to get our fannies in gear and be proactive about keeping the New Jersey strain of blueberry scorch virus out of Washington. It has been identified in 77+ fields in British Columbia. It is spread by aphids and by movement of infected plants. There is no cure other than eradication of infected plants. There does not seem to be a sense of urgency in the industry like one might expect. We have many new growers in Whatcom County who don't have an appreciation for the devastating potential of this disease. Comments?"

You can get a hold of Brian at 360-354-7708.

3) Phytophthora Root Rot in raspberries. Now is the time for Ridomil (metalaxyl) applications to help control phytophthora. Its advisable to do it just before or during rain.

Insect Update

1) Spanworm/ Winter moth in blueberries. We seem to have a different species than usual hatching out in Southwest Washington fields right now. It's got a much darker head capsule than the usual winter moth larvae we see. Dr. Tanigoshi (WSU entomologist) is having them identified. When scouting for any of these species use your hand lens and look for small holes chewed through the side of the bud scales and outer tissue. Break open suspect buds to look for small larvae. As they mature you might see a small amount of webbing tightly holding a dying flower-bud-cluster together with a small green caterpillar feeding inside.

2) Raspberry Crown Borer treatment: 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.

Cropwork:

All Caneberries: 1) Can apply Ridomil for Phytophthora root rot control. 2) Can apply an insecticide drench to control borers. 3) Pre-emergent weed control can be applied. 4) Can apply lime sulfur for disease control. 5) Fertilizer can be applied. 6) Plan for primocane control in south---timing depends on material or method used.

Blueberries: 1) Scout for winter moth and treat if necessary. 2) Copper or Bordeaux can be applied for bacterial blight control. 3) Pre-emergent weed control can be applied. 4) Can treat in south for mummyberry. 5) Scout rodent populations and bait if necessary. 6) Fertilizer can be applied. 7) Plan to bring in bees at 10% bloom. If you bring them in too early, they can get used to going to sources other than the blueberries. Also control dandelions in field to take away alternate pollen source.

Strawberries: 1) Pre-emergent weed control can be applied. 2) Scout weak areas for presence of weevil larvae or strawberry crown moth. 3) As new growth gets going, scout for cyclamen mites.

Weather for the week:

(South): Rain and showers, showers and rain. Highs around 50. Lows in the lower 40's.

(North): Showers and rain, rain and showers. Highs around 50. Lows around 40.

Calendar:

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.

March 28 Friday Grower Meeting in Woodland at the Oak Tree restaurant at 7 AM. Call Tom at 503-289-7287 for information.

April 21 Washington Blueberry Commission annual meeting will be held at the WSU Puyallup Research and Extension Station at 10 AM.

5261 N. Princeton ~ Portland, OR 97203 ~ Office phone: (503) 289-7287 ~ Fax: (503) 289-7229
Cell phone: (503) 970-0922 ~ email info@peerbolt.com ~ website <http://www.peerbolt.com>