



Disseminating information for: [Washington Red Raspberry Commission](#), [Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission](#), [Oregon Strawberry Commission](#), [Washington Blueberry Commission](#), [Washington Strawberry Commission](#).

March 23, 2004

As the fields start leafing out, signs of some **winter damage** are showing up. Mid teen temperatures in November before they'd yet gone completely dormant clipped some of the **baby raspberry fields** in the north. **Marionberry fields** in the south seem to have made it through in good shape except for some that were weaker and less vigorous.

Early blueberry bloom: With the continuing warm and dry weather in the Willamette valley (70 degrees last Sunday!) all crops are developing ahead of schedule. Some blueberry fields could hit 10% bloom this week. They're about two weeks ahead of last year.

Pesticide Buffer Maps: Maps showing the waterways affected by the court imposed buffer zones are now available for all Washington and Oregon counties. For Washington [click here](#) – for Oregon [click here](#).

Pacific Northwest Pest Management Handbooks: The 2004 editions of these very comprehensive handbooks are now available from Washington State Extension Service for \$35 each (Insect Management, Disease Management, and Weed Management). These cover almost all crops grown in Washington, Oregon and Idaho. Call 1-800-723-1763 or [email](#).

Insect Update

- 1) Time to start setting out monitoring traps for the **raspberry beetle** in the north. You can contact the WSU extension office in Whatcom County for information about the traps. (360) 676-6736
- 2) **Rough strawberry root weevil** adults can now be found at the base of raspberry canes and in the detritus of strawberries.
- 3) No adult **clay colored weevils** are yet being found in the north.
- 4) Check weak areas in strawberry fields for insect larvae feeding on the crowns and/or roots. These could be **cutworms, strawberry crown borer** or **root weevil larvae**. Crows in the field could be a sign that they are feeding on an insect infestation.
- 5) Some first instar **winter moth larvae** are being found in the south. These can cause major damage by feeding on blueberry blooms. Occurrence can be very spotty in a field, so scout carefully for webbing and/or damaged flower buds. [Click here](#) for pictures.
- 6) Insecticide drenches can be applied for control of **Raspberry Crown Borer** and /or **Strawberry Crown Borer** in caneberries. Diazinon is the recommended insecticide.
- 7) Sulfur applications for the prevention of **Redberry mite** problems in blackberries can be started at the delayed dormant stage.
- 8) In the north, take care when planting small fruits into pasture. **Wireworm** populations are increasing and can potentially cause major damage if undetected/untreated. For wireworm pictures and information, [click here](#).

Disease Update

- 1) **Mummyberry**—Now is the critical time to treat for mummyberry. [Click here](#) for information and pictures.
- 2) **Cane Blight**—The best time to spot symptoms of cane blight in raspberries is as they break bud. Infected canes will show either no budbreak if the cane has been girdled or one sided bud break if the infection is on one side. Scrape canes to look for rust colored streaks usually coming up from machine harvester scars.

There is no treatment for cane blight, only prevention. The time to protect next year's canes from infection is immediately after harvest when fresh wounds become infected.

3) Phytophthora Root Rot in caneberries can be treated with a drench of **Ridomil** in March. Be sure it gets rained in. Ridomil is pretty volatile. To see the label, [click here](#).

4) Check for cane diseases such as **Purple Blotch** in blackberries. Lesions are easy to see right now with no foliage in the way.

Cropwork

Raspberries: 1) Can apply fertilizer. 2) Scout for Cane Blight and other cane diseases. 3) (North) Finish applying lime sulfur. 4) Can apply Ridomil for root rot control. 5) Can apply insecticide drenches for borer control. 6) Control primocane growth as needed.

Blackberries: 1) Can apply fertilizer. 2) Scout for cane diseases like Purple Botch. 3) Can apply Ridomil for root rot control. 4) Can apply insecticide drenches for borer control. 5) Control primocane growth as needed.

Blueberries: 1) Scout for winter moth and leafroller larvae. Look for webbing in the buds. 2) Scout for cane diseases such as Bacterial Blight. 3) Scout for dead or diseased buds and determine cause. 4) Can treat for mummyberry prevention. 5) Can apply fertilizer. 6) Plan to bring in bees at 10% bloom.

Strawberries: Start scouting for root weevil, cutworm and /or strawberry crown borer larvae in areas where the new growth is weak.

Cranberries: Can apply Casoron for weed control.

All Crops: Control weeds.

Weather

North (Whatcom county): Rain and showers. Highs in the lower 50s. Lows in the upper 30s.

South (North Willamette valley): Mixed—Some rain/showers & some clearing. Highs in the upper 50s. Lows in the lower 40s.

Calendar

March 23— WSU Extension Workshop for Berry Growers ~ Vancouver, WA campus of WSU. A full day workshop for growers. For program and registration information, [click here](#). Or call 360-576-6030 x14.

March 23—Washington Red Raspberry Commission ~ Vancouver, WA campus of WSU. Starting at 3:30 following the WSU Extension workshop. Call 360-354-8767 for information.

March 23—Weed Management Short Course ~ Corvallis, OR on the campus of OSU from 8:30 to 4. Call Dan McGrath for information 503-931-8307.

April 19 — Washington Blueberry Commission meeting ~ Chicon Room, Puyallup Research and Extension Station at 10 AM. Call Dorothy Anderson at 360-766-6150 or by [email](#) for more information.

April 21-23 — Fruit and Vegetable Processing Short Course 238 Wiegand Hall, OSU Campus, Corvallis, OR. For registration and program details, [click here](#).

May 1 — Oregon Blueberry Growers Association Annual Meeting ~ Roth's IGA, West Salem. For more information, Contact Judy Ebert (503) 663-6451 or by [email](#).

Small Fruit Cold Storage Reports: <http://berrygrape.oregonstate.edu/markets/cold.htm>

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