

Small Fruit Update



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

February 8, 2005

The cooler weather this week has certainly slowed down plant development. That's good but with dormancy broken at risk over the next few weeks is potential cold/freeze damage.

Cholinesterase Testing Requirements Expanded in Washington State

A blood-testing program designed to detect the effects of handling farm pesticides that can cause illness will cover more agricultural workers. Starting Feb. 1, workers who handle certain pesticides for 30 or more hours in a 30-day period must participate in a cholinesterase-monitoring program. That's compared to last year's threshold of 50 or more hours. The 30-hour threshold was phased in over two years to make it easier for farmers to adjust to the new requirements. Complete information for workers and employers in English and Spanish is available on the L&I web site at www.LNI.wa.gov or by calling your local L&I office.

Disclaimer...

Time for the annual disclaimer—The information in these Updates should only be view as **our opinions and suggestions** and isn't to be taken for anything other than that. Rates, timing and anything else affecting your crop should always be used according to label recommendations and/or your own best judgment. Please check with your local extension agents and industry consultants if you've got questions concerning your specific situation.

... Acknowledgment

As we've expanded the area covered by this Update, we've needed to increasingly rely on information coming from extension and industry contacts in varying locations. We really want to acknowledge their input, without it this just wouldn't work. Thanks. We believe a stronger small fruit industry will result from pooling our diverse resources and sharing area-wide growing information.

... and links information

We have a lot of pest lifecycle and control information, agendas, and other material in this Update and on the website (www.nwipm.info) that can only be viewed using Acrobat Reader. If you have trouble with a link (anything underlined and usually in blue), it may be because your machine doesn't have Acrobat. You can download it for **free** at <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>.

Blueberry Pruning: For all of you still working on pruning: [Click here](#) for the OSU pruning guide on the [Berry and Grape Infonet](#).

Liming: There's still time to get lime or dolomite on fields. Very few factors affect overall plant growth and crop yields as much as low pH. General guidelines: For caneberries and strawberries keep it above 6.0. For blueberries it should be between 4.5 and 5.5.

Insect Update:

- 1) **Leafroller larvae:** I've been finding some larger over wintering leafroller larvae feeding on buds in blueberries and raspberries. Scout for buds held tightly together with webbing.
- 2) **Redberry mites:** These are a major pest in Evergreen blackberries and can also be a problem in Marions. There is no treatment once the redberry symptom is found, so prevention is the only option. If you have had Redberry mite problems start your prevention program with a dormant spray of lime/sulfur or elemental sulfur shortly after budbreak.
- 3) **Scale:** A dormant oil or **Esteem** ([Pyriproxyfen](#)) can be used while blueberries are dormant.

Disease Update: **Mummyberry:** This alert is still early compared to previous years, but the early bud development has me nervous. The cooler weather has decreased the chances of early mummyberry infections, but if we get a warm, wet spell, be prepared. Poor control years often result from the inability to time the protective fungicide applications properly due to wet conditions. Just as a comparison, last year in the Willamette Valley, we applied the first applications in early March.

Winter herbicides: Get these on before warm weather spurs plant growth that can lead to herbicide damage. Pre-emergents can be applied in all crops to prevent weed problems later in the spring. I'm hearing that Spartan, our primary strawberry pre-emergent is in short supply this year. [Click here for herbicides](#) registered in small fruits.

Cropwork:

All Crops: 1) Can put out [mouse/vole](#) bait as needed. They're very heavy in some fields this year. 2) Trap for moles. 3) Can still apply lime/dolomite to raise soil pH.
All Caneberries: 1) Finish canework. 2) Weed control. 3) Scout for bud damage/feeding & determine cause. 4) Scout for cane diseases. 5) Can treat for [Redberry mite](#) at budbreak
Blueberries: 1) Finish pruning. 2) Scout for bud damage & determine cause. 3) Dormant oil can be applied for scale and winter moth egg control. 4) Scout for mummyberries. 5) Can treat for scale and/or caterpillar larvae. 6) Scout for cane diseases.
Strawberries: Weed control.

[Weather Forecast](#) by Rufus La Lone.

Calendar

If you need to be reminded of a calendar item, you can always see this list on our web site. We used to keep this list on our company site (www.peerbolt.com), but this week we moved the calendar to our new industry information web site (www.nwipm.info).

Feb 9—Oregon Strawberry Commission Meeting ~ Noon, Allesandro's Restaurant, OR Call 541-758-4043 or [email](#) for information.

Feb 11—Oregon Farm Labor Legislation Seminar ~ 9-noon, North Willamette Station, Aurora, OR, Oregon Ag Alliance. Must preregister. Click [here](#) for information.

Feb 16—Washington Red Raspberry Commission Meeting ~3 PM. At Fire District #3 conference room, 307 19th Street, Lynden, WA. For details call Henry at the Commission office 360-354-8767.

Feb 17— Food Alliance Sixth Annual Recognition Dinner ~ Multnomah Athletic Club, Portland, 7 p.m. For information call 503-493-1066.

Feb 16-19—North American Berry Conference ~ Double Tree Hotel, Nashville, Tennessee. Jointly sponsored by the North American Strawberry Growers and the North American Bramble Growers. For information contact the registration office at 814-355-1912 or [email](#). For the conference brochure [click here](#).

Feb17-19—Lower Mainland Horticultural Short Course ~ Tradex, Abbotsford, [Click here](#) for information or [email](#).

Feb 23-24— North American Blueberry Council Annual Meeting ~ Holiday Inn SunSpree Resort, Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina. Call 916-983-2279 or [email](#) for information.

March 15—Oregon Blueberry Commission Meeting ~ Noon, Roth's West Salem IGA, Salem, OR, Call 503-364-2944 for information

March 16—WSU Extension Workshop for Berry Growers ~ Vancouver, WA campus of WSU. Call Dr. Lynell Tanigoshi at 306-576-6030 x 12 for details – [click here for agenda](#).

March 16— Washington Red Raspberry Commission Meeting ~ WA campus of WSU, Vancouver. Following the WSU workshop. For details call Henry at the Commission office 360-354-8767.

March 10—Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission Meeting ~ Noon, Sweet Briar Inn, Tualatin, OR Call 541-758-4043 or [email](#) for information.

March 22— Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission Grower Workshop ~ 1:00, North Willamette Station, Aurora, OR. Call Tom at 503-289-7287 for information or [email](#).

[Small Fruit Cold Storage Reports](#)

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