

# Small Fruit Update



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

## March 8, 2005

We've got blueberries at **pink bud stage** in southwest Washington. Going to be bringing in the bees before too long—hard to believe. Still waiting on the Oregon and Washington Section 18 emergency use labels to be able to use **Indar** (Febuconazole) for mummyberry control. Any day they say, any day...

**Alert:** [Mummyberry in blueberries](#). Mummyberries are now being found sprouting throughout the northwest growing region. Click on the bold blue highlight above for scouting and control details as well as photos. [Pristine](#) (Pyraclostrobin & Boscalid) has shown good control in some trials.

**Industry Website of the week:** [New Jersey Blueberry Newsletter](#) (April, 2004) Put out by the Rutgers University Extension Monthly from April through September. This particular one is from last spring. It has a great mummyberry article. (14 page PDF file).

**Raspberry Research Priorities:** At next week's **Washington Red Raspberry Commission** meeting in Vancouver, we'll be discussing research priorities. Right now the **top ones are:** the breeding program, root rot control, Raspberry Bushy Dwarf virus control and insect harvest contaminants. I'd like to look at adding issues such as labor saving technology and soil ecology. If you've got **potential research priorities** that you feel are not being addressed, let me know at [tom@peerbolt.com](mailto:tom@peerbolt.com) or 503-289-7287.

**Blueberry Fertilizer timing:** We're getting close to the traditional time for applying fertilizer. Many recommendations still call for blueberries to receive their first application just before the buds break. OSU's small fruit horticulturalist Dr. Bernadine Strik's recent research shows the plant takes up very little nitrogen before late April. Her timing for split applications in the Willamette Valley is 1/3 in late April 1/3 in mid-May and 1/3 in mid-June.

## **Chemical Control:**

[\(Click here for a list of pesticides labeled for use in small fruits\)](#)

- 1) **Indar** (Febuconazole): Still waiting... [Pristine](#) (Pyraclostrobin & Boscalid) has looked promising in some mummyberry control trials.
- 2) **Funginex** no longer has a tolerance on blueberries in the U.S. and cannot be used for mummyberry control.
- 3) **Spartan** (Sulfentrazone): The Section 18 Emergency use label for Spartan for weed control in strawberries has been renewed and now runs through February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2005. [Click here for Washington Section 18 label](#).

## **Cropwork:**

**All Crops:** 1) Can put out [mouse/vole](#) bait as needed. After budbreak, **zinc phosphide baits** are off label. 2) Trap for moles. 3) Can still apply lime/dolomite to raise soil pH.

**All Caneberries:** 1) Finish canework! Now! 2) Weed control. 3) Scout for bud damage/feeding & determine cause. 4) Scout for cane diseases. 5) Can treat for [Redberry mite](#) with a delayed dormant sulfur application. 6) Can apply a delayed dormant application of lime sulfur when buds have broken for disease control.

**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 and treat as needed. 5) Scout for cane diseases. 6) Copper or Bordeaux can be applied for bacterial blight control. 7) Scout for Winter Moth larvae.

**Strawberries:** 1) Weed control. 2) As plants start growing, check weak areas for root weevil larvae, strawberry crown borers or root disease problems.

## **Ongoing Seasonal Pest Information**

**Insects/ Mites:** Click on highlighted name below for in depth specific information on the pest.

- 1) [Leafroller larvae](#): Blueberries. Scout for buds held tightly together with webbing.
- 2) [Redberry mites](#): Evergreen blackberries and Marionberries.
- 3) [Scale](#): Blueberries. A dormant oil or **Esteem** ([Pyriproxyfen](#)) can be used while blueberries are dormant.

- 4) **Winter moth:** Blueberries. Begin scouting for winter moth larvae as buds start breaking.
- 5) **Crown Borers:** Caneberries. If you've had borer problems in the past, March is the time to drench for crown borer control in caneberries

**Diseases:** Click on highlighted name for in depth pest information.

- 1) **Mummyberry:** Blueberries. See Above.
- 2) **Bacterial Blight:** Blueberries. Copper applications recommended as buds break.
- 3) **Purple Blotch:** Blackberries. Lime Sulfur applications recommended in the spring.
- 4) **Phytophthora Root Rot:** If you have a root rot problem in raspberries, March is the time to use a fungicide drench for control. **Ridomil Gold** is pretty volatile and needs to be watered in well for effectiveness. It should be applied just before or during rain.

**Weather Forecast** by Rufus La Lone.

### **Calendar**

For an expanded online calendar, [click here](#).

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

**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 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](#).

**April 7— Oregon Strawberry Commission** ~ Noon, Allesandro's restaurant, Salem, OR Call 541-758-4043 or [email](#) for information.

**Online Classifieds:** If you've got something to offer, let us know. So far, we've just got one--A couple of Littau harvesters to rent out for the coming season.

### **Small Fruit Cold Storage Reports**

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