

Small Fruit Update



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

March 22, 2005

Northern raspberries: Some baby fields are showing winter damage from late fall/early winter when it turned cold before they were dormant.

Southern raspberries: Some of the more vigorous southern **raspberry** fields have enough primocane growth to be caneburning this week.

Northern blueberries: Whatcom County got over an inch and a half of rain over the weekend and seems about a week away from any **blueberry bloom**.

Southern blueberries: **29 degrees** was reported Sunday night in Hillsboro, west of Portland. In the Willamette Valley and southwest Washington, some Early Blues are around **10% bloom** with bees in already. Reka, Brigitta and Legacy are also showing significant blooming with Blue Gold not far behind. Dukes are just starting their bloom.

Willamette Valley blackberries: Blackberry development is about a week ahead of last year. Because of the early season, late cane tying is causing more damage than usual.

Southern strawberries: Fruiting spurs are developing in some of the weaker Totem fields and the early season variety, Honeoye.

Correction: Last week I gave the wrong phone number for **Dr. Bob Martin**, the Small Fruit Center's virologist. If you suspect that your blueberry field has a virus problem (see below), you can call Bob to arrange for testing at (541) 738-4041 or email him at martinr@science.oregonstate.edu

New pest Information

Voles/meadow mice: All crops. I'm still getting reports of high levels of vole activity this year. Click on the highlighted name for information on scouting, baiting and bait stations.

Diseases:

Blueberry Viruses: **Blueberry Shock virus** symptoms are showing up in southern blueberry fields. The newly developing buds suddenly turn black and die. Infected plants recover but produce no crop for a year. No treatments are available. **Scorch virus** symptoms are also due to show up in blueberries. It looks very similar to Shock but is much more serious since plants don't recover and should be immediately removed to prevent spread by aphids.

Insects/ Mites:

1) **Winter moth:** Blueberries. Winter moth have been found in blueberries in **southwest Washington** and the northern **Willamette Valley**. They're below economic thresh holds but keep on top of scouting for them. Larvae have also been recovered from laurel in King County.

2) **Clay colored weevil:** Raspberries. I haven't had any reports yet, but it's about time for adults of this species to start emerging in **northern raspberry fields** where they feed on the just breaking raspberry buds. Click on the highlighted name for pictures and more information. While the species has been found in the south, it has not been reported at economically damaging levels.

Cropwork:

All Crops: 1) Plan for spring fertilizer applications. Many growers are applying now. 2) Weed control.

All Caneberries: 1) Finish canework! Last week! 2). In the north, scout for clay cooler weevil. 3) Scout for cane diseases. 4) Control primocane growth as needed. 5) Can drench for borer control. 6) If Phytophthora root rot is a problem, can apply Ridomil for control (raspberries only). 7) Can apply a delayed dormant application of lime sulfur when buds have broken for disease control. 8) Scout for bud damage/feeding & determine cause.

Blueberries: 1) (south) Get the bees in at around 10% bloom. 2) (south) Scout for virus symptoms. 3) Scout for Winter Moth larvae and treat as needed. 4) Scout for mummyberries and treat as needed. 5) Scout for cane diseases. 6) Scout for bud damage & determine cause.

Strawberries: 1) As plants start growing, scout weak areas for root weevil larvae, strawberry crown borers or root disease problems.

Ongoing Seasonal Pest Information

Insects/ Mites:

- 1) **Leafroller larvae:** Blueberries. Scout for buds held tightly together with webbing.
- 2) **Redberry mites:** Evergreen blackberries and Marionberries.
- 3) **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:

- 1) **Alert: Mummyberry in blueberries.** Mummyberries are now being found sprouting throughout the northwest growing region. The wet weather increases the likelihood of infections. Click on the bold blue highlight above for scouting and control details as well as photos.
- 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 Phytophthora 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.
- 5) **Cane Blight:** Raspberries. A good time to spot symptoms of cane blight is as the buds break. 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 machine harvester wounds can become infected.

Industry Website of the week: [CDMS-Ag Chem Information Services](#) . This is an excellent agrichemical label database. If you're looking for a label, they've usually got it.

Chemical Control:

- 1) **Indar** (Febuconazole) has been approved for emergency use for mummyberry control in blueberries in Oregon and Washington. Click here for the [Washington label](#). Click here for the [Oregon label](#).
- 3) **Spartan** (Sulfentrazone): The Section 18 Emergency use label for Spartan for weed control in strawberries has now also been renewed for Oregon and now runs through February 28th, 2006. [Click here for Oregon Section 18 label](#). The [label for Washington](#) was renewed earlier. Read the label carefully and don't use over actively growing plants.

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

Calendar

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

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 still just got one--A couple of Littau harvesters to rent out for the coming season.

Small Fruit Cold Storage Reports

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