

Small Fruit Update



February 21, 2006

[Event Calendar](#) [Small Fruit Cold Storage Reports](#) [Weather Forecast](#) by Rufus La Lone

It'll take some time to assess how much **last week's cold** will impact the crops. Temperatures at most official recording sites on the western side of Washington and Oregon hit minimums around 20° F (-6.7° C). Some grower reports from the Willamette Valley and Western Washington were quite a bit lower. Strong winds in many locations aggravated the situation. **Marionberries, raspberries and blueberries** were most likely affected to varying degrees.

More on last week's temperature's from Craig MacConnell, Whatcom County's Extension agent: [Click here](#) for a PDF file showing air temperatures in **Whatcom County** – Lynden & Nooksack Ag Weather Net Stations for the period Feb 14 – 21.

Opportunity for expansion or diversification: A completely integrated production and marketing operation in northwest Washington is available for sale or partnership. The organization can offer valuable transition assistance in: equipment operation, cultural practices, harvesting, handling, cooling, processing, sales, marketing, bookkeeping, labor, housing, etc. The crops include fresh market vegetables and fresh or frozen berries. Please send inquiries to mjberry@fidalgo.net

Mummyberry non chemical control: The most practical options for non chemical control are to prevent the overwintering mummies from releasing their spores by either burying them with at least a **three inch layer of sawdust** and/or **lightly tilling the row centers** to disrupt the sprouting mummyberries. Ground directed applications of materials like lime sulfur have also been used. The difficulty is the long period of time over which the spores are released— **applications/tilling need to be repeated often and consistently.**

OSU North Willamette Research and Extension Center Summer Field Days: A heads up on some dates:

Strawberry Open House, Wednesday, June 14, 1:00pm
Caneberry Open House, Thursday, June 29, 2:00pm
Blueberry Field day, Wednesday, July 12, 1:00pm to 5:00pm

Cropwork:

All Crops: 1) Can still apply lime/dolomite to raise soil pH. 2) Can apply pre-emergent herbicides.

All Caneberries: 1) Put out [mouse/vole](#) bait as needed. 2) Apply lime/sulfur for disease control. 3) Weed control. 4) Scout for bud damage/feeding & determine cause.

Blackberries: (in particular Evergreens) Apply Lime Sulfur for treatment of both rust and [Redberry mite](#) at budbreak.

Blueberries: 1) Put out [mouse/vole](#) bait as needed. 2) Can apply Copper for Bacterial Blight. 3) Dormant oil or Esteem can be applied for scale and winter moth egg control. 4) Scout for bud damage & determine cause. 5) Scout for mummyberries.

Strawberries: Weed control.

Insect Update: Click on highlighted name for in depth pest information and/or links to chemical labels.

1) [Redberry mites:](#) **Blackberries** - 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 an application of lime/sulfur or elemental sulfur shortly after budbreak.

2) [Scale:](#) **Blueberries** - A dormant oil or [Esteem](#) (pyriproxyfen) can be used.

3) [Winter Moth](#) **Blueberries** - The above application for scale can also help prevent winter moth damage caused by their larvae feeding on buds later this spring.

Disease Update: Click on highlighted name for in depth pest information and/or links to chemical labels.

1) [Mummyberry:](#) **Blueberries.** Indar emergency use labels have been applied for in both Oregon and Washington but have not yet been granted.

2) [Bacterial Blight:](#) **Blueberries.** Copper applications are recommended as buds break.

3) **Purple Blotch: Blackberries.** Lime Sulfur is usually applied in the spring although spores released from the floricanes won't infect the new primocanes until temperatures get into the 60's (16-18 C). The idea is to protect the new primocanes from infection. Any signs of floricanes infection took place last year and can't be remedied at this time.

4) **Phragmidium Rust: Evergreen Blackberries** - Apply Lime Sulfur at the highest rate allowed. Good coverage is essential. Check to see how well it's penetrating the 'rope' of canes tied along the wire where a lot of rust spores are hiding out. Also, remove as much of the old fruiting canes as possible to get rid of overwintering inoculum.

Vertebrate Pest Update: Caneberries and Blueberries - [Voies](#)

Some Upcoming Meetings (For a more complete schedule go to the [Event Calendar](#))

February 28, March 1-2 —Export Seminar & Consultations ~ Seattle, WA. Seminar focuses on branding and federal assistance programs; personal consultations available. [Click here](#) (PDF file) for details and registration form.

March 3-4 —US Highbush Blueberry Council Spring Meeting ~ Crowne Plaza Seattle, 1113 6th Ave., Seattle, Washington. (206) 464-1980. For the online registration, [click here](#) --- (user name: meeting; password: meetingnabc1)

March 14 —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 the agenda](#).