

Small Fruit Update



March 21, 2006

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

We've had our own freezing problems here, only the computer kind. Our apologies for being a day late on this Update.

Crop Updates:

Northern Washington raspberries: This last bout of below freezing temperatures could have caused more bud injury than the first. Some secondary buds are breaking which is often an indication the primary bud has been injured. There also seem to be quite a few buds with brown discoloration inside, particularly on first year fields. Lime sulfur going on. Planting of new fields is getting into full swing.

Willamette Valley raspberries: Fields are breaking. Most lime sulfur applications are done.

All blueberries: A few scattered open blooms starting to show up. Many fields are at or beyond green tip stage. Fungicide applications to prevent mummyberry infection have started.

Strawberries: Crowns are starting to push in the southern growing areas. No cold damage has been observed in the Skagit valley.

Website of the Week, Technology: [Click here](#) to see how a German vineyard has mechanized their cane training. Maybe someone could adapt this to caneberries? (Thanks to Craig MacConnell for passing this along).

Immigration Reform: It's crunch time for contacting your senators on the Guest Worker/ Immigration Reform issue. [Click here](#) for an Oregon Association of Nurseries "state-of-the-issue" update Even if a senator/congressman supports guest worker provisions, the email and phone logs are running very heavily against them. Get counted.

Oregon: [Ron Wyden](#), 202-224-5244, [Gordon Smith](#), 202-224-3753

Washington: [Maria Cantwell](#) 202-224-3441, [Patty Murray](#) 202-224-2621

Caneberry Crop Insurance Pilot Program Evaluation meetings: Growers and others are needed for feedback on this program created to help cover crop losses due to weather, insects, disease (yes the new rust would be included), failure of irrigation, etc. Meetings are planned for both the **Willamette Valley** (Wednesday, April 5, North Willamette Station in Aurora) and **Southwest Washington** (Thurs, April 6, the Oak Tree Restaurant in Woodland). They'll last about 2 hours-- lunch provided. Your comments will help **decide the future of this program**. Growers will meet at 10:00 am and insurance, extension, and, FSA personnel at 1:30 pm. [Click here](#) for more information.

Raspberry Selection Puree Evaluation: [Brian Yorgey \(OSU\)](#) and [Pat Moore \(WSU\)](#) invite interested industry folks (especially growers) to taste and evaluate the commercial potential of promising new raspberry cultivar selections from the WSU breeding program. Some of these have much **improved root rot resistance**. For more information, contact Brian (541 737-6496) or Pat (253 445-4525) or at the email links above. It'll be Thursday, April 20, 10 am (done by noon), North Willamette Research and Extension Center, Aurora, Oregon.

Pacific Northwest Pest Management Handbooks: The 2006 editions of these very comprehensive handbooks are now available from Washington State Extension Service for \$40 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](#).

(Revised from last week)..Plastic recycling efforts starting in Whatcom County: The new contact is Trevor at 815-7919. They will take (PLASTIC) buckets, pails, drums, barrel liners, twine, flats, jugs, fumigation film, drip tape, etc. They charge a small fee for fumigation film due to the dirt attached. Pesticide containers must be triple rinsed, and remove as much of the label as possible, also the foil seal if any.

Chemical Control Update:

Fungicide, Blueberries: 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.

Ongoing Seasonal Pest Information

Insects/Mites

- 1) **Winter Moth Blueberries** - Larvae have been recovered from blueberries in Skagit County. These guys feed on the emerging buds and can cause significant damage before you even know they're out there.
- 2) **Leafroller larvae: Blueberries** - Scout for buds held tightly together with webbing.
- 3) **Redberry mites: Blackberries.**
- 4) **Raspberry Crown Borer / Strawberry Crown Moth Caneberries** - Can be treated with an insecticide drench in March.

Diseases

- 1) **Disease Alert: Mummyberry Blueberries** - Sprouting mummyberries have been recovered from the Willamette Valley and as far north as Whatcom County, Washington. Growers who have experienced mummyberry problems in the past need to stay on top of control measures at this very critical stage of disease development.
- 2) **Phragmidium Rust: Evergreen Blackberries** - Apply Lime Sulfur at the highest rate allowed.
- 3) **Phytophthora Root Rot: Raspberries** - Can be treated with a fungicide drench in March.
- 4) **Bacterial Blight** (*Pseudomonas syringae*): **Blueberries** - With additional tissue damage caused by the cold weather, it is more important than most years to get on copper applications at this time to help prevent infections.
- 5) **Cane Blight: Raspberries** - A good time to spot symptoms of cane blight is as the buds break.
- 6) **Purple Blotch: Blackberries.**

Cropwork:

A lot of fertilizer applications going on in the Willamette Valley and Southwest Washington right now, primarily in caneberries. The cool soils and lack of root growth right now will hold back plant uptake of nitrogen and other nutrients.

All Caneberries: 1) Apply lime sulfur for disease control. 2) Scout for bud damage/feeding & determine cause. 3) Can apply Ridomil for root rot control. 4) Can apply insecticide drench for borer control.

Blackberries: (in particular Evergreens) Apply lime sulfur for treatment of both rust and [Redberry mite](#).

Blueberries: 1) Scout for Winter Moth feeding. 2) Can apply Copper or Bordeaux mix for Bacterial Blight. 3) Treat for mummyberry as needed. 4) Make preparations to bring in bees around 10% bloom. 5) Scout for bud/tip damage and determine cause.

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

All Crops: Weed control.