

Small Fruit Update



February 12, 2008

[Weather Forecast](#) by Rufus La Lone

[Photo of the Week](#): Vole tunneling damage in raspberries. Control voles now to prevent this later.

[Small Fruit Cold Storage Report](#)

Blueberry Freeze Susceptibility Information: In the Willamette Valley we're starting to see bud swell as temperatures start getting into the 50's. This is the time of year that all regions should be alert to the upcoming potential of freeze damage. As blueberry plant dormancy is broken, damage can be done by temperatures under 30 (F). There are many strategies growers can use to minimize this threat. [Click here](#) for information from the North Carolina Extension.

New Information on Upcoming meetings

- **February 27—3 annual Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission Grower Workshop** ~ 9:00 am -3:30 pm, North Willamette Research and Extension Center, Aurora. This year's theme: "**To Plant or Not to Plant...Caneberry Field Management in the Near Future**" [Click here](#) for the agenda. Call Peerbolt Crop Management at 503-289-7287 for more information.
- **March 3—Lynden Farmer to Farmer meeting regarding blueberry bird control** ~ 7:00-8:30 pm, Lynden Library, Creative Scarecrows is hosting and invites local blueberry farmers to see some noiseless bird scaring solutions. [Click here for the press release](#). For information contact Mary Starz 360-366-0348 or [email](#) .
- **March 10-12—Food Product Development Short Course**~ Food Innovation Center, Portland, organized by the OSU Dept. of Food Science & Technology. [Click here for information](#).

Positions Available

- **Inside Sales Manager Fall Creek nursery:** This position is primarily responsible for all nursery and international nursery and commercial sales. Office setting with up to 10% travel. [Click here for more information](#).
- **Blueberry/Blackberry Development Manager:** "Under the direction of the EVP of Strategic Development, the Berry Manager will assist global blueberry and blackberry grower base with the agronomic knowledge needed to rapidly and continuously advance successful commercial production practices. The Berry Manager will advise and coordinate with the research department in the discovery and development of production innovations. The Berry Manager will assist in the sourcing and development of new growers; will provide production and economic analysis to the grower base; and will participate in the long-term planning of blueberry and blackberry production programs." [Click here](#) for more information.

Industry News

- **The USDA has released report on the Oxygen Radical Absorbance Capacity (ORAC) of Selected Foods including many berries.** [Click here](#).
- **USDA is Proposing Changes to the Guest Worker Program:** [Click here](#) for a story related to the proposal. [Click here](#) for the actual USDA press release.
- **A diet rich in berries may boost levels of good cholesterol and improve blood pressure:** [Click here](#). This mostly is geared toward bilberries but does also address some other berries.
- **Beekeeper has hives for rent for small fruits:** Chris Welch, located in Granite Falls, WA (East of Marysville) is looking for fields needing hives. 425-308-1969 or chriswelch@ccmmarysville.com

Pest Activity

- **Scale blueberries:** A dormant oil or Esteem ([Pyriproxyfen](#)) can be used while blueberries are dormant.
- **Pseudomonas (Bacterial Blight) blueberries:** Water-soaked lesions are appearing on canes in some fields that then develop into a reddish brown to black cankers.
- **Voles all crops:** There are signs of a lot of vole activity area blueberry and caneberry fields.
- **Leafroller larvae blueberries:** This is a minor pest at this time of year but has on occasion been reported to cause economic damage. Scout for buds held tightly together with webbing.

Cropwork

All Crops

- Scout for voles and treat as needed.

Blueberries

- Can apply copper or Bordeaux.
- Finish pruning- apply Bordeaux after pruning.
- Scout for bud damage & determine cause.
- Dormant oil can be applied for scale and winter moth egg control.
- Can apply Casoron (dichlobenil) for weed control. Especially good on quackgrass.

Blackberries

- Mechanically “brush” canes to remove detritus that could become harvest contaminants.
- Don’t begin training down Marionberries until after threat of damaging cold weather is passed.
- Can apply Casoron (dichlobenil) for weed control. Especially good on quackgrass.

Evergreen Blackberries

- Dormant spray of lime/sulfur or elemental sulfur in mid-February for Redberry mites.

Raspberries

- Can apply Casoron (dichlobenil) for weed control. Especially good on quackgrass.

Strawberries

- Can apply pre-emergent herbicides
 - One choice--Spartan (sulfentrazone) until February 28. It's off label after that date.

Upcoming Meetings:

February 13—Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission ~ 11 AM, Langdon Farms, Aurora. For information call the commission office at 541-758-4043.

February 13—Washington Red Raspberry Commission ~ 1 PM, Firehouse, Lynden. For information call the commission office at 360-354-8767.

February 13—Whatcom Farmers Coop ~ Lynden, WA, Berry workshop for their customers. To RSVP, call 354-2418

February 14-16 —Horticulture Grower's Short Course & Pacific Agriculture Show ~ Abbotsford, BC. [See the website](#) for program information and registration or contact Mark Sweeney 604-556-3056.

February 6 —Oregon Strawberry Commission meeting ~ noon, Roth's IGA in Salem. Call the commission office for more information 541-758-4044.

February 13 —Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission meeting ~ 11 am. Langdon Farms Golf Club, Aurora, OR. Call the commission office for more information 541-758-4044.

February 13 —Washington Red Raspberry Commission meeting ~ 1 pm at the firehouse in Lynden, WA. Call 360-354-8767 or [email Henry Bierlink](#), Executive Director, for more information.

February 14-16 —Horticulture Grower's Short Course & Pacific Agriculture Show ~ Abbotsford, BC. [See the website](#) for program information and registration or contact Mark Sweeney 604-556-3056.

February 16 —Good Agricultural Practices Workshop for the Blueberry Industry ~ LaSells Steward Center, OSU, Corvallis. Call the Oregon Blueberry Commission for more information 503-364-2944.

February 20 —Oregon Strawberry Commission Annual Growers meeting with Research Reports ~ 8:30 am- 1:30 pm, North Willamette Research and Extension Center, Aurora. [Click here for agenda](#). Call the commission office for more information 541-758-4044.

February 27— Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission Grower Workshop ~ 9-3:30, North Willamette Research and Extension Center, Aurora, call Peerbolt Crop Management at 503-289-7287 for more information

February 27 - March 1 — NABC/USHBC meetings ~ Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. For more information go to the web site <http://www.blueberry.org/calendar.htm#Meetings>.