



April 1, 2008

[Weather Forecast](#) by Rufus La Lone

[Photo of the Week](#): Blueberries at Pink Bud stage in the Willamette Valley this week.

[Small Fruit Cold Storage Report](#)

We're finally getting some drier weather this week. I haven't heard of any impacts on the crops from this cold, wet weather pattern although some new pseudomonas symptoms are being seen in blueberries. Too early to assess how much or potential impacts. Crop development appears to be about ten days to two weeks behind last year.

### Industry News

- **GAP certification requirements becoming more widespread:** Smucker's sent out a letter to their suppliers this week announcing that they will require GAP (Good Agricultural Practices) certification for any growers from which they receive fruit starting in the 2009 season. Many fresh market blueberry receivers are already requiring it for this season.
- **Low Dollar, Increased Demand Creates Opportunity for Berry Exports World-wide Berry Demand Continues to Blossom:** [Click here](#) for the article on CNBC.
- **Fresh Cut Cantaloupe recall:** [Click here](#) for the US Food and Drug Administration Press Release. Just a reminder of what could happen in berries and why the push for GAP certification.

### GAP Information Sites

- **Oregon Department of Ag:** [Click here](#) for their information page with upcoming seminars and further links
- **National GAP Information Center:** [Click here](#). This is a great place for information and resources.
- **Primus Labs:** [Click here](#). This is a leading private certifying company.
- **University of California Food Safety Website:** [Click here](#). Self audits and much other good information.

### GAP Informational meeting

- **April 9 —Good Agricultural Practices meeting:** 8-noon, Food Innovation Center, Portland, by the Oregon Department of Ag. This is "for producers interested in finding out more about Good Agricultural and Good Handling Practices, the certification process, and its benefits to the industry. [Click here](#) or call 503-872-6600 for registration information.

### Symposium Information

- **July 14-16, 2008: The 9th International Vaccinium Symposium** will be held at Oregon State University in Corvallis. In addition, a pre-conference tour is scheduled to tour blueberry, cranberry, and lingonberry production in the area. Although this is a scientific meeting with researchers from all over the world presenting, some industry members may wish to attend. **Early registration ends April 11.** For more information [click here](#) for the web site - Bernadine Strik and Chad Finn, co-conveners.

### On-going Pest Information

#### Insects

- [Raspberry Crown Borers](#) caneberries
- [Strawberry Crown Moth](#) southern caneberries
- [Winter moth/ Bruce span worm](#) blueberries
- [Redberry mites](#) blackberries

#### Diseases

**Disease Alert: Pseudomonas (Bacterial Blight) blueberries:** Environmental conditions are prime in many areas for bacterial blight damage.

**Disease Alert: Mummyberry blueberries:** Protective fungicides and/or other measures to control this disease will be needed over the next several weeks in fields where it is present.

- **[Phytophthora Root Rot raspberries](#)**: There's still time to use a fungicide drench in raspberries.
- **[Purple Blotch blackberries](#)**: Check for cane lesions that are easy to see right now.
- **[Cane blight raspberries](#)**: Infected canes will show either no bud break if the cane has been girdled or one sided bud break if the infection is on one side.
- **[Blackberry rust \(Phragmidium Rust\) Evergreen blackberries](#)**

## **Cropwork**

### **All crops**

- Plan fertilizer program.
- Weed control.

### **Blueberries**

- Can apply mummyberry control materials and/or take other mummyberry management actions.
- Can apply bacterial blight management materials (e.g. copper, **[Serenade](#)**).
- Scout for span worms/winter moth.
- Make preparations to bring in bees around 10% bloom.

### **Blackberries**

- Scout for purple blotch lesions.
- Apply insecticide drench for crown borer control.

### **Evergreen Blackberries**

- Delayed dormant spray of lime/sulfur or elemental sulfur for blackberry rust and redberry mites.

### **Raspberries**

- Young fields in south—can burn back primocane.
- Apply insecticide drench for crown borer control.
- **[Ridomil](#)** drench for phytophthora root rot control.
- Scout for cane blight symptoms as buds break.

### **Strawberries**

- As plants start growing, check weak areas for root weevil larvae, strawberry crown borers and/or root disease problems.
- Till row centers.
- Can apply **[Aliette](#)** or equivalent product for root rot control.

## **Upcoming Meetings: ([Click here](#) for an extended small fruit calendar)**

- **April 8 —Oregon Strawberry Commission meeting** ~ 6 pm. Roths West, Salem, OR. **[Email](#)** or call the commission office for more information 541-758-4043.
- **April 8 —Honey Bee Health and other Pollinators**~11:30 - 2 p.m. LaSalle's Stewart Center at OSU. Oregon State University is sponsoring a meeting to discuss the need for research on honey bee health and other pollinators. RSVP to **[Stella Coakley](#)** by Wednesday April 2 to confirm your attendance. Attendance and lunch are free of charge.
- **April 10 —Washington Blueberry Commission meeting** ~ Eltopia, WA. Time to be announced. **[Email](#)** or call Alan Schreiber at for more information 509-266-4305.
- **April 22 —Oregon Blueberry Commission meeting** ~ Budget Hearing - noon, West Salem Roth's IGA in Salem, OR. Doaks Ferry Room at noon. Call the Commission office for more information 503-364-2944.
- **May 13 —Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission meeting** ~ 6 PM, Langdon Farms Golf Club, Aurora, OR . **[Email](#)** or call the commission office for more information 541-758-4043.
- **June 5 — Washington Blueberry Commission meeting** ~ Teleconference. Time to be announced. **[Email](#)** or call Alan Schreiber for more information 509-266-4305 for more.
- **June 11 —OSU Strawberry Open House** ~ starting at 2:00 pm at the North Willamette Research and Extension station, 15210 NE Miley Road, Aurora, OR. Call (541) 737-5434 or email **[Bernadine Strik](#)** for more information.
- **July 2 —OSU Caneberry Open House** ~ starting at 1:00 pm at the North Willamette Research and Extension station, 15210 NE Miley Road, Aurora, OR. Call (541) 737-5434 or email **[Bernadine Strik](#)** for more information.