



April 15, 2008

[Photo of the Week](#): Blueberry bud dieback observed this week. Likely cause--*Pseudomonas Syringae*.

[Small Fruit Cold Storage Report](#)

[Weather Forecast](#) by Rufus La Lone

Cold Alert:

- The potential is there for low temperatures in the 20's late this week in the Willamette Valley. Blueberry growers with fields in blossom will need to assess their locations, crop development and temperatures to determine if frost protection measures are needed.
- **Blueberry Flower Cold Tolerance:** From OSU Blueberry Extension specialist, Wei Yang: "Growers may want to know that open flowers should be fine at temperatures above 28F (-2.2C). Flowers at pink stage should be OK at temperatures above 22F (-5.5C). A tight flower bud can tolerate temperatures as low as 10F (-12.2C)."

Crop Development

- **Degree days lagging:** We're about two weeks behind the last couple of years in plant development and it looks like we'll lose even more ground this week. While it's getting more and more unlikely we'll make it up, it's still too early to get a good estimate on just how much later the harvests will be.

Blueberries:

- **Last Year: April 10, 2007:** (*This is from last year's Update*) "**Oregon blueberries:** Last week's record warmth late in the week stimulated a lot of bloom. Some fields went from about 5% bloom to 25% in a day or two. Patriot, Earliblue, Blue Jay, Duke, Brigitta, Legacy, Blue Gold and Berkeley are all well into bloom in many valley locations. Blue Crop is close behind."
- **This Year: April 14, 2008: Oregon blueberries:** Some of the early blooming varieties like Earliblue, Legacy, Patriot and Brigitta are showing some bloom in the Willamette Valley and SW Washington with hives in a few fields. We even have some bumble bees starting to fly. No bloom is reported in the other regions.

Strawberries:

- **Last Year: April 10, 2007:** (*This is from last year's Update*) "**Oregon/SW Washington strawberries:** Growth is coming on strong with good color. Fruit trusses are emerging. Bloom is getting close. A few warm, sunny days would push it to 10% pretty quickly."
- **This Year: April 14, 2008: Oregon/SW Washington strawberries:** Trusses are just beginning to emerge. Significant bloom is well over a week away, probably at least two weeks away depending on how many heat units we get the week after this.

Industry News

We'll be changing some areas on the www.nwipm.info home page over the next few weeks. One change now in place is a revolving list of links to timely industry issues and information.

Right now that list includes:

- **A job opportunity at Fall Creek Farm and Nursery** for someone with management and sales experience.
- **GAP (Good Agricultural Practices) information sites.**
- The upcoming **Vaccinium Symposium information.**
- **Degree day information** and weather site links for the Northwest berry growing regions.

Go to www.nwipm.info for this information.

New Pest Information

BC Blueberry Council's IPM Newsletter for April 10: [Click Here](#)

Diseases

- **Yellow rust, raspberries:** The transition from the overwintering, black spore stage (teliospores) to the yellow, slightly raised blister-like spots on new leaves (spermagonia) is now just beginning to be seen in Oregon fields.

On-going Pest Information

Insects

- **Insect Alert: [Winter moth/ Bruce span worm](#) blueberries:** Winter moth/ Span worm larvae have been reported in fields in all regions.
- **[Clay colored weevil](#), northern raspberries.**
- **[Aphids](#), blueberries:** Aphids vector blueberry Scorch virus and in areas and fields where the virus is found, a pre-bloom application of a systemic insecticide is recommended.
- **[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.
- **Disease Alert: [Phragmidium rust](#), Evergreen blackberries.**
- **[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:**

Free testing for [Phytophthora Root Rot](#): Available for Washington raspberry growers through a project funded by the Washington Red Raspberry Commission and Whatcom County IPM. Samples are collected by WSU Whatcom County Personnel in Whatcom County and by Peerbolt Crop Management (tom@peerbolt.com) in the south. Contact Colleen Burrows cburrows@wsu.edu, 360 392-1926 for more information.

Cropwork

All crops

- Weed control.

Blueberries

- Plan fertilizer program.
- 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

- Apply fertilizer as needed.
- Scout for purple blotch lesions.
- Burn back primocanes as needed.

Evergreen Blackberries

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

Raspberries

- Apply fertilizer as needed.
- Can burn back primocanes as needed.
- **[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 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.