



March 10, 2009

[You Tube link of the week](#): "Verifying the Marionberry"- about the Oregon Department of Ag's Marionberry certification program.

[Photos of the week](#): Purple Blotch in Marionberries. Check for these cane lesions that are easier to see as temperatures start to warm up.

[The Weather Cafe](#) by Rufus La Lone

[Small Fruit Cold Storage Report](#)

[Upcoming Meetings](#)

Degree Day Information

We've got the degree day link back up and running on the [nwipm website](#). Go to the site, and then click on the "**Click here for current degree day information**" link below the Weather Café logo. For more in-depth information from each site, click on the individual site. Our appreciation goes to Dr. Len Coop at Oregon State's [Integrated Plant Protection Center](#) for maintaining/supporting this service.

Extension services under attack

Every time something needs cutting, our agricultural extension support services seem to be first in line. The present economic crisis is accelerating the process and could result in major cuts.

- **WSU Extension service central to mission:** [Click here](#) (TricityHerald.com 3/1/09); [Click here](#) (Capital Press 3/9/09). The proposed cuts would gut the extension service.
- **Oregon State University to cut \$13.4 million from budget:** [Click here](#) (StatesmanJournal.com, 3/1/09).

Available extension publications

- **The newly revised WSU Pest Management Guide for Commercial Small Fruits** (EB 1491) is now available. [Click here](#) or call [WSU Extension Publishing and Printing](#) 509-335-2857; 800-723-1763.(68 pages, \$4.50)
- **Nutrient Management for Blueberries in Oregon** [Click here](#) (OSU Extension, 16 pages, free).
- **Caneberries Nutrient Management Guide** [Click here](#) (OSU Extension, 8 pages, free).

Global Berry Statistics

These sites are being developed by a Chilean consulting company. Some of the links don't work yet, but it's got information that hasn't been compiled before on a public site. Could prove to be very useful.

- **Raspberries:** [Click here](#) **Blueberries:** [Click here](#)

Job Opening

- **Briggs Nursery** is seeking a competent and experienced individual to represent us in the sale of clean, tissue culture produced grapes and small fruit to various growers in the Pacific Northwest. Industry experience required. Please send resume to: mdjarzynka@briggsnursery.com.

March Meeting Information

- **March 11 — Washington Red Raspberry Commission meeting**~ Lynden, WA. For information call Henry Bierlink at 360-354-8767 or by [email](#).
- **March 12 — WSU and the Washington Blueberry Commission** are holding a workshop targeted toward eastside blueberry growers and other industry professionals at the WSU Prosser Research & Extension Center. [Click here](#) for the agenda, registration information and driving directions.
- **March 18 — Oregon Blueberry Commission budget preparation meeting**~ 12 pm. West Salem Roth's IGA Doaks Ferry Meeting Room- Salem, OR. For more information: 503-370-3790.
- **March 20 — Two IPM workshops** in Mt. Angel (8-11:30) and McMinnville (1:30-5) to kick off a new, three-year, watershed scale IPM and pesticide risk reduction program. **Four core re-certification credits** at each event. These first workshops are relevant to producers within and beyond these watersheds, including Christmas trees,

hops, grass seed, **small fruit**, nurseries and vegetables. [Click here](#) for the Mt. Angel information. [Click here](#) for the McMinnville information. Or call Mary Halbleib 543-737-2683.

- **March 24-26, 2009 — 6th International IPM Symposium "Transcending Boundaries"** Oregon Convention Center, Portland, OR. [Click here](#) for more information. Symposium sessions will address IPM across disciplines internationally, in agriculture, the market place, urban settings, greenhouses, and more.

Industry news

- **Strawberries a bright spot for Florida, Ag Commissioner says:** [Click here](#) (The Tampa Tribune, 3/2/09).
- **New raspberry cultivar shows promise:** [Click here](#) (Fruitnet.com, 3/2/09). This is about Moutere. It hasn't looked good for machine harvesting.
- **Driscoll's of Europe opens for business:** [Click here](#) (Fruitnet.com, 3/4/09).
- **Microsatellites have major benefits for blueberry research:** [Click here](#) (USDA/ARS News, 3/9/09) This is innovative genetic marker technology that will greatly benefit our industry in the long term. The resources the USDA is investing in berry crops are very needed to keep us competitive and profitable in the long term.

Regional reports

These reports are from individuals within the region and are their particular observations. They are included to give an impression of the present 'state of the industry' and regional activities.

- **Northern Washington, Whatcom County:** (3-6-09) Last night was 24-26 degrees. Plus it may get down to 24 again Sunday-Monday. Finishing up tying raspberries, even planting some more if the fields dry. Blueberries are waiting for warmer weather; flower buds have swollen a bit. Strawberries are sitting things out; definitely have some cold damage there.
- **British Columbia, Fraser Valley:** (3-5-09) Nothing much going on. We finally thawed out and got rid of the last snow, and then we had another dump of near 6 inches in the Fraser Valley. A few sunny, frost days in the next 10 days, a bit more snow this weekend and perhaps more after, it was all white in Chilliwack this morning, all gone already. The blueberry buds are swelling up slowly, same for early raspberries, and strawberries are moving also. Not only the plants with plenty cold treatment, also the growers are itching to get moving again.
- **Willamette Valley/SW Washington:** (3-7-09) Night temperatures are still going below freezing, and there might be some record lows coming. Some blueberries at green tip stage but nothing moving much with the soil staying cold. Strawberries are just barely pushing along with blackberry buds right behind. Won't take much to break things loose. Finding some sprouting mummyberries. Some lime sulfur and herbicide applications going on.

Ongoing Pest Information

Diseases

- **Disease Alert: Mummyberry blueberries:** Plan now for control. Many fields, especially in the south, are at or getting close to green tip stage (vegetative buds are showing green color) when infections can take place. If the field or adjacent fields have a history of mummyberry infections, preventative applications should begin at green tip stage.
- **Disease Alert (southern blueberries): Pseudomonas (Bacterial Blight) blueberries:** Environmental conditions are prime in many areas for bacterial blight damage. These are primarily plants that are breaking dormancy along with night temperatures that go below freezing. Management options include various copper formulations as well as [Serenade Max](#), a biological control product that also has some activity in controlling mummyberry. Control/prevention agents should be in place well before cold night temperatures happen.
- **Phytophthora Root Rot raspberries:** March is the time to use a fungicide drench in raspberries.
- **Purple Blotch blackberries:**
- **Blackberry Rust** (Phragmidium Rust) **evergreen blackberries:** At this time, it's recommended to apply lime sulfur at the highest rate allowed to minimize the amount of inoculum that can infect the emerging new growth. Penetration and coverage are keys to optimizing efficacy of this application.
- **Cane Blight raspberries:** A good time to spot symptoms of cane blight is as the buds break. Infected canes will show either no budbreak if the cane has been girdled or one-sided budbreak if the infection is on one side. Scrape canes to look for rust colored streaks usually coming up from machine harvester scars. There is no treatment for cane blight, only prevention. The time to protect next year's canes from infection is immediately after harvest when fresh wounds become infected.

Insects

- **Winter Moth/ Bruce Span Worm blueberries:** Begin scouting for winter moth larvae as buds start breaking.
- **Raspberry Crown Borers caneberries:** If you've had borer problems in the past, March is the time to drench for crown borer control in caneberries. (See photo link above)
- **Strawberry Crown Moth southern caneberries:** In Oregon and Southwest Washington, this borer looks to do as much, if not more damage in caneberries as the Raspberry Crown Borer. The treatment is the same as for RCB, a spring (or fall) insecticide drench.
- **Clay Colored Weevil northern raspberries**

- **[Redberry Mite](#) evergreen blackberries:** Dormant spray of lime/sulfur or elemental sulfur for Blackberry Rust and Redberry Mite is recommended in March.
- **[Scale](#) blueberries:** A dormant oil or [Esteem](#) (Pyriproxyfen) can be used while blueberries are dormant.
- **[Leafroller larvae](#) blueberries**

Other

- **[Voles:](#)** Zinc phosphide baits can be applied only until budbreak in caneberries and blueberries.