



April 28, 2009

[You Tube link of the week](#): How do they grow blueberries and blackberries in Mexico? Take a look. This is about as high tech/high input as it gets.

[Photos of the week](#): Symptoms of blueberry Shock Virus now present in many Oregon and SW Washington blueberry fields.

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

[Small Fruit Cold Storage Report](#)

[Upcoming Meetings](#)

Newsletters/Updates

- **British Columbia Blueberry Council Monitoring Report for 4-23-09:** [Click here.](#)
- **New Jersey Blueberry Bulletin for 4-20-09:** [Click here.](#)
- **Michigan State's Fruit Crop Advisory for 4-28-09:** [Click here.](#)

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.

Fraser Valley, British Columbia (4/27/09)

- **Blueberries:** Last week's warm weather moved growth along. Dukes, Bluecrop, Hardiblu at early pink bud, Reka at pink bud and white bud to early bloom. Northland at early bloom. If we get some warmer evening weather this week, things will really push. I even saw some Elliotts in early pink!
- **Raspberries:** Raspberries are slowly increasing lateral development but really need nighttime temps to increase to above 10 C (50 F) for more development.

Whatcom County, Northern Washington (4/24/09)

- **Blueberries:** Blueberries approaching bloom stage cautiously, probably apply pre-bloom stuff next week. Trace of winter damage here and there. No worms or aphids yet.
- **Raspberries:** Raspberries growing slowly, clay weevils made their annual appearance this week. Lots of winter damage in the fields planted last year.
- **Strawberries:** Strawberries have leaves now, just finished fertilizing.

Willamette Valley, Oregon (4/27/09):

- **Blueberries:** Bees are out, or at least the hives are, in most fields. Could use a lot more bumble bees. Some Dukes are past 10% while others have stalled at maybe 5%. Waiting for a warm up.
- **Strawberries:** Scattered bloom is showing up in some fields. If we get reasonable (60's and some sun) this week we should be at 10% in many of them.

Industry news

- **Blueberries are good for the heart, study hints:** [Click here](#) (Reuters UK, 4/20/09)
- **Blueberry acreage blossoms:** [Click here](#) (Capital Press, 4/27/09)
- **Strawberry harvesting solution:** [Click here](#) (Weeklytimesnow, (Australia, 4/27/09). Well, great. Here it is. An Australian grower has finally solved mechanical harvesting of strawberries. Right. Kind of hard to even know how the machine works from this article.

Meeting Information

- **May 2— BC Blueberry Council Spring Field Day~** 1 pm, Gaskin Farms, 4350 Oliver Road, Coquitlam. [Click here](#) for the flyer with details. Call or [email](#) Sonya Ring for further information. 604-613-2133
- **May 7— Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission meeting and Budget meeting~** 5pm Budget meeting; 5:30pm regular meeting. Langdon Farms, Aurora, OR. Call 541-758-4043 or email [Philip Gütt](#) for more information.

- **May 12 – IPM Scouting Tools for Blueberry & Raspberry Production, Whatcom County (10AM).** WSU Whatcom County Extension will discuss and demonstrate scouting techniques and current pest issues related to bloom growth stage in blueberry and raspberry production. A pest scouting guide for each crop will be provided. It will be held at Boxx Berry Farm, 6211 Northwest Road, Ferndale, WA. Refreshments will be served. For more information, contact WSU Whatcom County Extension (360) 676-6736.
- **May 13— Oregon Strawberry Commission budget hearing and regular meeting~** 5:30pm and 6pm. West Salem Roth's, Salem, OR. Call 541-758-4043 or email [Philip Gütt](mailto:Philip.Guett@oregonstrawberry.com) for more information.
- **June 10—Strawberry Open House~** 2pm. North Willamette Research & Extension Center. Aurora, OR. Call 503-678-1264 for more information.
- **June 22-23—[The International Berry Health Benefits Symposium](#)~** Monterey, California. Hosted by the [National Berry Crops Initiative](#). Seven North American berry organizations join together to feature the latest research by scientists worldwide on berries and human health.
- **July 8—Caneberry Open House~** 1pm. North Willamette Research & Extension Center. Aurora, OR. 503-678-1264 for more information.
- **July 15—Blueberry Field Day~** Time TBA (12:30 or 1pm). North Willamette Research & Extension Center. Aurora, OR. Call 503-678-1264 for more information.

Pesticide Update

- **Insecticide, blueberries: Brigade WSB** has had blueberries added to the label. Preharvest interval is 1 day, Re-entry interval in 12 hours. [Click here](#) for the new label.

New Pest Information

Insects

- **[Twospotted Spider Mites](#): northern raspberries:** (Whatcom county, 4/24) Two spotted spider mites are showing up in low numbers in the lower cane areas. Nothing seen in the loop area of the canes. So far not a lot of predators seen. We will watch the mite development in the next week or so as temperatures and lateral growth increase.
- **[Yellow Mites](#), northern raspberries:** (Whatcom county, 4/24) Mites are actually starting to show. We're finding Yellow mites up high in the canopy already which is not characteristic at all but they are there. This mite caused us a lot of problems last year.
- **[Juniper Weevil](#) (*Barypeithes pellucidus*), southern blueberries, southern strawberries:** This is a very small weevil that's now emerging in SW Washington and Oregon. The small size makes it debatable as to how much actually damage it can do but the size of the populations, especially in blueberries, are of concern. There are indications that it's able to live out most of its lifecycle, including adult stage, under the crown of the plant.

Diseases

- **[Blackberry Rust](#) (*Phragmidium Rust*) evergreen blackberries:** This week we picked up the first signs of this rust changing from its over wintering spore stage (black spots on the undersides of old leaves) to the first active stage (reddish blisters on the top of new leaves that emerged first this spring).
- **[Yellow Rust](#), raspberries:** As with the *Phragmidium* rust in Evergreens, Yellow Rust in southern raspberries is showing the next spore stage, the bright yellow spots on the tops of inner leaves. The next couple of weeks (in the south) will also be critical to the potential of this disease to cause us major problems. Up north—it will be coming soon...

Ongoing Pest Information

Diseases

- **Disease Alert: [Mummyberry](#), Blueberries:** If you've seen this disease in your area, now is the time to put consistent and persistent efforts into breaking the disease cycle and preventing new infections.
- **Disease Alert: [Pseudomonas \(Bacterial Blight\)](#) blueberries:**
- **[Phytophthora Root Rot](#) raspberries..**
- **[Purple Blotch](#) blackberries.**
- **[Cane Blight](#) raspberries.**
- **[Shock virus](#), southern blueberries.**
- **[Raspberry Bushy Dwarf virus](#), Marionberries:** The yellow leaf symptom of this virus in Marionberries is beginning to be seen.
- **[Tomato Ringspot virus](#), southern raspberries:** The typical light green chevron pattern of this virus is beginning to be picked up on new growth.
- **[Downey Mildew](#), Boysenberries & Kotata blackberries** (occasionally other blackberries).

Insects

- **Insect Alert: [Winter Moth/ Bruce Spanworm](#) blueberries:** The larvae have the potential to do significant damage to emerging flower buds.

- **[Clay Colored Weevil](#), northern raspberries/blueberries/southern strawberries:** This early emerging weevil has caused the most economic by feeding on new lateral growth in northern raspberries. It is also now being reported in blueberry fields in British Columbia and in large numbers in a strawberry field in SW Washington.
- **[Aphids/Scorch Virus](#): northern blueberries:** Pre bloom aphid control is strongly recommended in blueberry fields infected with or in close proximity to fields infected with [Scorch virus](#). The B.C. Blueberry Commission is recommending waiting another week or two on this application.
- **[Blueberry Gall Midge](#), blueberries.**

Cropwork

All crops

- 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 and treat as needed.
- Apply pre-bloom aphid control as needed.
- Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to confirm.
- Bring in bees around 10% bloom.
- Can apply fungicide for fruit mold control at 10% bloom.

Blackberries

- Scout for Purple Blotch lesions.
- Burn back primocanes as needed.
- Scout for Phragmidium Rust in Evergreens.
- Can apply phosphite material for Downey Mildew prevention.
- Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to confirm.

Raspberries

- (northern areas) Scout for Clay Colored Weevil.
- Scout for rust.
- Can apply phosphite material for Root Rot control.
- Can burn back primocanes as needed.
- Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to confirm.

Strawberries

- As plants start growing, check weak areas for root weevil larvae, Strawberry Crown Borers and/or root disease problems.
- Till row centers.
- Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to confirm.
- Can apply phosphite material for Root Rot control.
- Plan for a fungicide for fruit mold control at 10% bloom.
- Can apply slug bait.