

Small Fruit Update



News and opinions from [Peerbolt Crop Management](#) and [BerriesNW](#) sent out weekly during the growing season, and sporadically when we have something to share in the off season.

March 16, 2010

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[You Tube link of the week](#): Growing strawberries for Burgerville: Leopold Farms, Boring, Oregon.

[Webinar of the week](#): Organic Blueberry Production—Bernadine Strik, Dave Bryla, & Handell Larco.
An hour long review of their organic blueberry research project.

[Photos of the week](#): Mummyberry....

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

[Upcoming Meetings](#)

[Small Fruit Cold Storage Report](#) (site was down this morning, but should be back up soon. If you are unable to link to this site, try again later.)

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.

British Columbia, Fraser Valley

- **Blueberries:** (3/15/10) A pretty cold week in the Fraser Valley with some frost showing up early in the week has slowed down blueberry development from the pace it was on. We're going to go to second round of Mummyberry sprays (some already on) and a probable start on spanworm control.
- **Raspberries:** (3/15/10) Raspberries likely to see some shoot burns next week and pre-emerge weed control. Crown borer sprays started this past week. Chemainus, Saanich pushing a lot more vegetative development than the Meekers who seem to be ambling along at a slower pace. Can't see any winter injury, and there really shouldn't be any. Watching fields that had a lot of post harvest mite issues in '09. The long dry late season last fall combined with mites may impact spring vigor this season.

Whatcom County, Northern Washington

- **Blueberries:** (3/11/10) First Indar on, second coming up, but timing is questionable since we are 4-6 weeks ahead of last year. Watch for spanworm/winter moth.
- **Raspberries:** (3/11/10) Colder than a well digger's elbow up here, windy and rainy with occasional snowflakes in the morning. Finishing up the lime sulfur on raspberries. We're still planting new fields. Shoot burning will likely start next week. Watch for cutworms and weevils feeding on the buds.

Disseminating information for:

Washington

[Washington Red Raspberry Commission](#)
[Washington Blueberry Commission](#)
[Washington Strawberry Commission](#)

Oregon

[Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission](#)
[Oregon Blueberry Commission](#)
[Oregon Strawberry Commission](#)

British Columbia

[Fraser Valley Strawberry Growers Association](#)
[Raspberry Industry Development Council](#)
[B.C. Blueberry Council](#)

Willamette Valley, Oregon and SW Washington

- **Blueberries:**

- (3/11/10) Duke, Bluejay, Bluegold, and Legacy have joined Rubel with a few blossoms open. A light rate of mesotrione + paraquat cleaned up our winter annuals very nicely. Both of our air blast sprayers died of fatigue with the last spray so they are in the shop for a rebuild. No sign of pests or diseases at this time but with partially open buds, we are considering getting the fungicide program started a little earlier than usual. I'm getting training on our weather stations Monday and should be able to share temperature data soon.
- (3/15/10) Some worries over cold temperatures last week with some spots getting into the high twenties. Don't think there was any damage but it makes for good pseudomonas damage weather. Copper and Mummyberry materials are going on.

- **Blackberries:** (3/15/10) New growth is pushing along, although the recent colder night temperatures have slowed it down. In spite of last December's cold snap into the 4-8 degree mark, no major signs of any cold damage to the Marions and other blacks are showing up. Looks like they were at the right stage of dormancy to be able to take it for the most part.

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Meetings

March 19—Oregon Blueberry Commission meeting~ 12pm. Doaks Ferry Room, West Salem Roths IGA, OR. Call 503 364-2944 for more information. *Originally scheduled for March 16.*

New Meeting: March 30—OSU is hosting a meeting to provide the latest information available on the Spotted Wing Drosophila, 1-5pm, Sheraton Hotel at the Portland Airport. Open to all stakeholders. The session will include updates on research, trapping and monitoring, occurrence and available control measures from the perspectives of OR, WA, and CA universities, Oregon Department of Agriculture, USDA-ARS Horticultural Crops Research Lab, and other scientists. A detailed agenda will be available by March 20th; information on this pest can be found at <http://swd.hort.oregonstate.edu/> where there are links to related websites. There will be no registration fee for this meeting.

April 2—IPM Scouting Tools for Blueberry & Raspberry Production in Whatcom County, 9:30AM. WSU Whatcom County Extension. This is the first installment of a series of crop specific field sessions on pest identification, scouting and management appropriate to the current crop growth stage. A pest scouting guide for each crop will be provided. Please RSVP to Dan Coyne: dcoyne@wsu.edu or (360) 676-6736. Click [here](#) for more information.

April 14—Washington Red Raspberry Commission meeting~ TBA. [Email](#) Henry Bierlink for more information at 360-354-8767.

April 21—Washington Blueberry Commission meeting~ TBA. Tri-cities. Call 503 364-2944 for more information.

April 27—Oregon Blueberry Commission Budget Preparation Budget Hearing meeting~ 12pm. Doaks Ferry Room, West Salem Roth's IGA, OR. Call 503 364-2944 for more information.

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Pest Alerts

- **[Mummyberry](#) blueberries**

- Many fields are already at or very close to green tip stage (vegetative buds are close to showing the first 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 and continue through the end of bloom.
- **So, what is "green tip stage"?** [Click here](#) for a pictorial guide put together by Michigan State University of the various stages of blueberry growth development.

- **[Winter Moth/ Bruce Span Worm](#) blueberries:** Span worm larvae feeding on blueberry buds in Northern Washington and British Columbia are being reported. Northern planting areas have traditionally had much larger populations, but outbreaks have also caused major economic damage in the southern areas.

- **[Pseudomonas \(Bacterial Blight\) blueberries](#)**: There are reports of new, damaging lesions showing up in some fields. Cankers may extend from a fraction of an inch to the entire length of 1-year-old wood. Buds in cankers die. If girdled, the cane portion above the canker dies. **Recommended management**: Copper sprays are recommended although many copper resistant strains of this bacteria have been identified. Serenade has shown some efficacy especially if used with a spreader-sticker. Serenade with Nu-film P is an organically approved option. Good coverage is essential with any of these applications.
- **[Voles all berries](#)**: Vole activity and damage is at very high levels in many berry fields. Management of voles is most effective now in the spring before they start multiplying. [Click here](#) for some background and biology information on voles (or meadow mice). [Click here](#) for information on how to construct bait stations.

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Industry News/Resources

Newsletters

- **British Columbia Blueberry IPM Newsletter for 3-5-10**: [Click here](#).
- **Market Newsletter: *The Source* for 3-15-10** [Click here](#) (from Produce News).

National

- (CA) **Mystery problem again hits bee colonies**: [Click here](#) (3/9, Fresno Bee)
- **Blueberry assessment increase proposal canceled**: [Click here](#) (3/5, Western Fruit Grower)
- **Blueberry industry conducts election of state (USHBC) council members**: [Click here](#) (3/8, USHBC news release)
- **Videos from the World Ag Expo in Tulare**: [Click here](#) (Western Fruit Grower) Some of the latest equipment shown at this year's show.
- (MI) **County blueberry farmer hosts delegation of international visitors**: [Click here](#) (3/15, The Currier-Leader)
- **Ag groups file suit to stop H-2A rule**: [Click here](#) (3/15, The Packer)
- **New study shows eating strawberries daily can quickly improve health**: [Click here](#) (3/9, The Signal-Santa Clarita Valley)

International

- **Chilean fruit industry continues uninterrupted following earthquake aftershocks**: [Click here](#) (3/15, FreshPlaza.com)
- (Australia) **Blueberry harvest spread**: [Click here](#) (3/10, The Advocate)

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New Pest Management & IPM Information

Insects/Mites

- **[Spotted Wing Drosophila](#) all berries**:
 - **Researchers prepare for a new emerging pest**: [Click here](#) (3/12, OSU press release on SWD)
 - **Asian fruit fly invasion could ruin Oregon crops**: [Click here](#) (3/13, Oregonian)
 - **Be on the lookout (SWD article)**: [Click here](#) (3/10, Western Fruit Grower)
- **[Redberry Mite](#) evergreen blackberries**: Dormant sprays of lime/sulfur or elemental sulfur for Blackberry Rust and Redberry Mite are recommended in March.

Diseases

- **[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.

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Ongoing Pest Management Information

[Birds](#), blueberries.

Insects

- **Alert: [Winter Moth/ Bruce Span Worm](#) blueberries:** See alert section above.
- **[Raspberry Crown Borer](#) caneberries:** If you've had borer problems in the past, March is the time to drench for crown borer control in caneberries.
- **[Strawberry Crown Moth](#) southern caneberries:** The treatment is the same as for RCB- a spring (or fall) insecticide drench.
- **[Clay Colored Weevils](#) southern strawberries:** This early emerging species is usually just considered a pest of raspberries in northern growing areas where it feeds on newly emerging shoots and buds.
- **[Leafroller larvae](#) blueberries.**

Diseases

- **Alert: [Pseudomonas \(Bacterial Blight\)](#) blueberries:** See alert section above.
- **Alert: [Mummyberry](#): blueberries:** See alert section above.
- **[Phytophthora Root Rot](#) raspberries:** March is the time to use a fungicide drench in raspberries. Warm, saturated soils are the conditions that favor this organism allowing it to spread quickly.
- **[Purple Blotch](#) blackberries:** Check for cane lesions that are easy to see now. Good time to assess disease level.
- **[Blackberry Rust \(Phragmidium Rust\)](#) Evergreen blackberries:** (*Early reminder*) Dormant spray of lime/sulfur or elemental sulfur for Blackberry Rust and Redberry Mites is recommended in March to prevent later problems.

Other Pest Species

- **Alert: [Voles](#):** See alert section above.

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Crop work

All crops—

- Scout for voles and treat as needed.
- Weed management.
- Plan fertilizer program.

Blueberries—

- Scout for Winter Moth/ Span Worm and treat as needed.
- Can apply Bacterial Blight (*Pseudomonas*) management materials.
- Scout for sprouting Mummyberries and treat as needed.
- Scout for leafroller larvae feeding.
- Make preparations for bringing in bees around 10% bloom.

Blackberries—

- Scout for Purple Blotch lesions in Marion berries to assess field disease levels for later treatments.
- Can drench for crown borer management.

Evergreen Blackberries—

- Can apply a dormant spray of lime/sulfur or elemental sulfur in mid-February for Redberry mites and Blackberry Rust.

Raspberries—

- Can apply Ridomil for *Phytophthora* root rot management.
- Can drench for crown borer management.
- Scout for Cane Blight symptoms as buds break.

Strawberries—

- As plants start to grow, watch for weak growing areas and check rots for weevil larvae, root rot and/or cold damage.

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