

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 23, 2010

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Video links of the week: ...and the SWD stories have begun:

- ['Fruit flies invade Oregon'](#) (3/22, KGW News, Portland)
- ['Winged intruder attacks Oregon fruit farm'](#) (3/22, KVAL, Portland)

[Photos of the week](#): Great collection of SWD photos from the Oregonian.

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

[Upcoming Meetings](#)

[Small Fruit Cold Storage Report](#)

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:** (3/22/10) Not a lot of change in development in both blues and raspberries from last week. Cool weather has really slowed things down. Pre-bloom aphid sprays on blues are in the near future. We just need to see a little more leaf tissue development before we apply.
- **Raspberries:** (3/22/10) Quite a bit of raspberry planting the last 3-4 days, and majority of shoot burns are planned to go this week. Haven't noticed much weevil activity, yet, which is kind of strange given the past early warm weather we've had. I'm sure they're coming though.

Whatcom County, Northern Washington

- **Blueberries**
 - (3/19/10) Blues stuck at pink bud. Only the slightest fraction of bloom in warm ground dukes. Worms pretty universal in buds. No winter moth/span worm loopers yet, just cutworms. First fertilizer going out now.
 - (3/19/10) We've had frost the last two nights. Fans and sprinklers have been going in the blues for protection. Plants just aren't moving too fast. Dukes are at pink bud stage. We're preparing to do our 2nd Indar and throw in some worm control material. Watch for webbing in the flower clusters that would indicate winter moth feeding.

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](#)

- **Raspberries**

- (3/19/10) Weevils starting to show in the raspberries. Watch newly planted fields with no leaf material to spare on weevils. Laterals slow to push on Meekers. Other varieties seem to be leafing out faster but not pushing out much.
- (3/19/10) Raspberries are also leafing out slowly. We started cane burning yesterday. Watch for cutworms and clay colored weevil.

Skagit County, Northern Washington

- **Blueberries:** (3/19/10) Fans & smudge pots going last three nights, lows 23-28F. 2nd mummyberry spray finishing up. We'll most likely put bees in Reka next week. Sprayed some vinegar in organics on the clear sunny days and got surprisingly good burn down on grass weeds (for a soil amendment!). Ponds filled now & getting irrigation system ready for fertigating blues with humic acid root feed. Bird abatement contractor is coming next week to set up the bird management program.

Willamette Valley, Oregon and SW Washington

- **Blueberries**
 - (3/18/10): We should be at 10% bloom on Earlyblue over the weekend with Berkeley following close behind. Dukes pushing through pink bud stage. Have used the frost fans 3 times, and I set them up at 32 tonight for the Earlyblue. The rest are at 30. Looks like things are moving along again.
 - (3/19/10) Brigitta joined our list of blueberries in spotty bloom, but we are still a ways from 10% on anything. A warm weekend may change that.
- **Raspberries:** (3/22/10) Good growth so far with no signs of any winter damage. Some primocane burning is going on and more will happen this week.
- **Blackberries:** (3/23/10) It looks like we are two weeks ahead of normal.
- **Strawberries:** (3/22/10) Fields are greening up. Weak areas are becoming pretty visible now. Some early Spotted Wing Drosophila monitoring traps are going out this week.

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Meetings

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. Boxx Berry Farm, Ferndale after 9:30am. 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~1-5pm at the WSU Puyallup Extension Center conference room. [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

- 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.
- **[Winter Moth/ Bruce Spanworm](#) blueberries:** Span worm larvae feeding on blueberry buds in Northern Washington and British Columbia are being reported.
- **[Pseudomonas \(Bacterial Blight\)](#) blueberries:** 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 these 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

- **New Jersey Blueberry Bulletin for 3-22-10:** [Click here](#). This is the first New Jersey Bulletin of the year and contains their 2010 Spray Schedule. It's 31 pages long but has a lot of very useful chemical control option reference information.
- **Market Newsletter: *The Source* for 3-22-10** [Click here](#) (from Produce News).

National

- **USDA news release on their decision to withdraw the request for an USHBC assessment increase:** [Click here](#).
- **USDA news release announcing the indefinite delay in the vote to establish a Processed Raspberry Promotion, Research and Information Order:** [Click here](#).
- **Naturipe Farms announces new executive team structure:** [Click here](#) (FreshPlaza, 3/22)
- **Florida strawberry crop finally comes to market:** [Click here](#) (Produce News, 3/18)
- **U.S. Plans spot tests of organic products:** [Click here](#) (New York Times, 3/19)

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New Pest Management & IPM Information

Insects/Mites

- **[Spotted Wing Drosophila](#) all berries:**
 - **Potential Economic Impact of a Newly Established Pest:** [Click here](#). An excellent article from U. C. researchers and extension agents, Mark Bolda, Rachel Goodhue, and Frank Zalom.
 - **Guidelines for making Spotted Wing Drosophila monitoring traps:** [Click here](#)
 - **OR scientists race against crop-raiding fruit fly:** [Click here](#) (Oregonian, 3/21)

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Ongoing Pest Management Information

Insects

- **[Alert: Winter Moth/ Bruce Spanworm](#) 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.**
- **[Redberry Mite](#) evergreen blackberries:** Dormant sprays of lime/sulfur or elemental sulfur for Blackberry Rust and Redberry Mite are recommended in March.
- **[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.

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

Blueberry fertilizer timing: We're getting to a traditional time for applying fertilizer. Many growers still apply the first application just before the buds break. Recent research shows the plant takes up very little nitrogen before late April. Recommended timing for split applications in the Willamette Valley is 1/3 in late April, 1/3 in mid-May and 1/3 in mid-June. Click on the link below for more information.

[Nutrient Management for Blueberries in Oregon](#) (16 pages).

All crops—

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

Blueberries—

- Scout for Winter Moth/Spanworm and treat as needed.
- Can apply Bacterial Blight (*Pseudomonas*) management materials.
- Scout for sprouting Mummyberries and treat as needed.
- Scout for leafroller larvae feeding.
- Plan for pre-bloom aphid control where scorch virus transmission is an issue.
- Make preparations for bringing in bees around 10% bloom.

Blackberries—

- Scout for Purple Blotch lesions in Marionberries 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—

- Burn back primocanes as needed.
- Scout for Clay Colored Weevil feeding and treat as needed.
- Can apply Ridomil for *Phytophthora* root rot management.
- Can drench for crown borer management.
- Scout for Cane Blight and Cane Botrytis symptoms.

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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