

# Small Fruit Update



**Providing Northwest berry growers with the information they need when they need it.**

The Small Fruit Update is sent out weekly during the growing season by [Peerbolt Crop Management](#) and is funded entirely by the Northwest berry growers & industry through their commissions & councils.

April 12, 2011

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## Featured links:

- **Video:** [Technologies that will change agriculture](#)
- [The Weather Cafe](#) by Rufus La Lone
- [Small Fruit Cold Storage Report](#)

## Disease Alerts:

### Blueberries - [Mummyberry](#)

From now through the end of bloom, blueberries are susceptible to Mummyberry infections. This early period is critical to managing the disease when the vegetative buds are at/beyond green tip stage, there's long periods of wetness, the temperatures are getting into the 50-57°F / 10-14°C range...and it's difficult to get into the fields to treat.

[Click here](#) for a Mummyberry fact sheet from MSU.

### Evergreen blackberries - [Blackberry Rust](#) (Phragmidium Rust)

This is a critical window in managing this disease.

- In early-mid April the overwintering spores are germinating whenever there's enough moisture. Lime sulfur should be on.
- Infections won't occur until leaves reach a stage of about ¾'s expansion.
- The first new infection symptoms on the new leaves will be visible by the end of April-beginning of May.
- If lime sulfur was applied & first symptoms are light, a minimal fungicide program should be sufficient (e.g. one Rally (myclobutanil))
- Continue scouting through June to be sure another application isn't needed.

### British Columbia Blueberries - [Scorch virus](#) - Vector (aphid) management

- From the B.C. Pest Alert "Blueberry scorch virus is transmitted by aphids. An effective aphid control program should be used by all growers. **Fields should be treated before bloom with a registered aphicide to control the over-wintering aphids before they reproduce and disperse.**"
- Click on the blue link above for full information from the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture. Check with your berry management specialists, both public and private, for more specific recommendations and selection of appropriate management materials.

## Disseminating information for:

### Washington

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

### Oregon

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

### British Columbia

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

- You can also email the B.C. Blueberry Council's research coordinator, [Karina Sakalauskas](#) (or call her at (604) 613-2133) for information.

### Control Material Alert:

#### U.S. Strawberries-Herbicides-New label approved.

From OSU Pesticide Specialist, Joe DeFrancesco:

- The Departments of Ag in Oregon and Washington just approved the Spartan 4F supplemental label for use in strawberries that was recently issued by FMC.
- The application rate and the maximum rate per season are the same, but the wording and use directions on the supplemental label do not exactly mirror the wording and use directions that had appeared on the Section 18 labels.
- Nonetheless, it is legal to use Spartan 4F at planting: either pre-plant, or post-plant and before any new strawberry leaves have emerged. In other words, they can use the product as they have been using it for the past 10 years.
- The wording on the supplemental label is a bit vague about use of Spartan after renovation and during dormancy. As such, the ODA and the WSDA will be requesting a 24c label from FMC that will clearly define the three use periods that Spartan can be used, which are: at planting; post renovation, and during dormancy.
- [Click here](#) for the new supplemental label.

### Regional Reports

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*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

- **Raspberries, Blueberries:** (Monday, 4/11) Developmental progress is slow and erratic in the established Meekers, as has been reported elsewhere. I hope it's just this cold, wet weather that's hampering growth. It is certainly making it tough on field work in any event. Shades of last year's tractor-pull events in blueberry and raspberry fields. Fertilizing and shoot burning are underway this week.
- **Blueberries:** (Monday, 4/11) Blueberries are developing at a faster pace than the raspberries and we should start to see first leaves unfurl this week. Terminal flower bud clusters on Dukes are loose cluster, and I even saw a field with some early pink bud. Mummyberry spraying ongoing. First systemic aphid sprays about to take place now that we're getting some leaf development.

#### Northern Washington, Whatcom County

- **Raspberries, Blueberries:** (Monday, 4/11) 'Bout the wettest I've seen in early April. Hard to spray raspberry shoots and fertilize, but we're trying. Finding some dead buds, probably from the November freeze. Second Indar going on the blues, also some fertilizer, but they are wetter than the raspberries.
- **Strawberries:** (Monday, 4/11) still cutting down the rows, and finding some cutworms.

#### Northern Washington, Skagit County

*Wet, wet, wet! Over 2" rain here at WSU-Mount Vernon this past week.*

- **Blueberries:** (Thursday, 4/7) We took advantage of the recent sort-of drying spell to get out with sprays for Mummyberry and Winter Moth in blueberry.
- **Raspberries:** (Thursday, 4/7) Planning our raspberry cane burning for next week if the weather holds up. We're seeing a nice flush of primocanes, but Meeker floricanes bud emergence is still lethargic. I'm glad to see some emergence from the ends of the loops, but it's still erratic and considerably behind Chemainus, Saanich and Cascade County. Those three emerged pretty uniformly from the start. Took the pictures below today. Left is Chemainus, showing pretty even emergence. Middle is erratic emergence from Meeker loop ends (Chemainus in background). The right shows Meeker loops and canes, with very limited emergence, again with Chemainus in the background.



## Willamette Valley, Oregon and SW Washington

*We're starting to dry out some but still way too cold. Some spotty snow flurries and hail the last day or two.*

- **Blueberries:** (Thursday, 4/7) Blues are starting to show an open bloom here and there, a few early bumble bees around. Very little problem with pseudomonas to be seen yet. Probably just not enough of that warm, wet weather and succulent new growth for it.
- **Raspberries:** (Monday, 4/11) Except for the young fields, raspberries are very slow to break, especially Meekers, and I'm still not sure how much cold damage might be in these fields. I was checking yesterday to see if the erratic/slow breaking buds were secondary buds in place of killed primary buds but it didn't look like it. Maybe just the weather...
- **Blackberries:** (Monday, 4/11) Marions and other processing blackberries are looking pretty decent. Bud break is erratic but given the weather pattern that's to be expected. Growers getting lime sulfur on, some for the second time.

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## Control Material Information

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- **Copper products, characteristics, and uses:** [Click here](#) (Michigan State) Excellent review of formulations and brand specific information in a table format along with Bordeaux mixing directions.

## Food Safety Resources

- [Produce Safety Alliance launches website, enlisting members for working committees](#) (4/1, Press Release)
  - [Click here](#) for the site. "The Alliance is a broad-based partnership charged with developing a national education and training program for farmers, packers, and regulatory personnel of fresh produce in anticipation of a new produce safety rule from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)."
  - [Click here](#) to see their working committees, how to join & participate, influence the process. There's an April 30<sup>th</sup> deadline for participation forms.
- [Commercial On-Farm Food Safety Practices](#) (New Mexico State/Univ. of Hawaii)
- [U.S. FDA Food Safety website](#)
- [USDA Foodborne Illness Cost Calculator](#)

## Health News

- [Strawberries may slow precancerous growth in esophagus](#) (4/6, Ohio State Cancer Center)

## Industry News/Resources

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### Newsletters/Blogs

- ['The Source'](#) (4/4) Market updates from *The Produce News*.
- [B.C. Blueberry Council Blueberry IPM Newsletter](#) for 4/6

- [Michigan State News for Agriculture](#) (4/11 & 4/12) How to get the right rate and timing with fertilizer applications and scouting and management of mummy berry in blueberries.
- [New Jersey Blueberry Bulletin](#) (4/4) Good Pollination article.

## Extension Update--Oregon State University

*A listing of the potential impacts of the reductions proposed in the Oregon State budget from the Dean's office. Now's the time to contact legislators or anyone else who might have any influence on these pending decisions. Here are 'the talking points':*

- [Agricultural Experiment Station budget comparisons/impacts](#)
- [Statewide Public Service Program comparisons/impacts](#)
- [Extension Service budget comparisons/impacts](#)

### West

- [California blueberry producers eyeing crop pollination](#) (4/8, The Produce News)

### National

- [Farmers fear budget cutters could prune favorite federal programs](#) (4/7, Miami Herald)
- [Ozone reduces fungal spoilage of fruits & vegetables](#) (4/10, ScienceDaily)

### International

- [Inflation challenges berry sales](#) (4/11, The Packer)
- [Chilean blueberry export season finishes](#) (4/7, FreshFruitPortal.com)

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## Pest Alerts

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- **New information:** [Downey Mildew](#), boysenberries, Kotata blackberries (occasionally other blackberries): This is a systemic disease that only displays symptoms if environmental conditions are right in the spring. It can cause major losses due to misshapen berries. A distinctive red leaf pattern is also diagnostic of the disease. Phosphite applications in the spring are recommended to prevent outbreaks.
- **New information:** [March Flies](#), incidental insect: This 'fly' clogs up our field insect traps and is everywhere this time of year.
- **Prime Time to scout for:** [Spur Blight](#), raspberries: As buds break it's the best time to see the 'one-side-of-the-cane-dead-bud' symptoms of this disease before the growth masks them. Actual disease management is right after harvest when machine picker wounds are fresh & the major disease entry point. This is much more prevalent/ serious in machine harvested fields.
- **Prime Time to scout for:** [Purple Blotch](#) blackberries: Check for cane lesions that are easy to see as the weather warms but the foliage has not yet emerged. It's a good time to assess disease level.

### Diseases

- **Risk is high:** [Pseudomonas \(Bacterial Blight\)](#) blueberries recommended management: To prevent future lesions from forming, copper sprays are recommended (Cut rates if there a risk of leaf burning). Once night temperatures are consistently above the mid thirties (F), the risk of new damage is minimal.
- **Risk is high:** [Mummyberry](#) blueberries See [alert](#) at the top of the newsletter.
- **Risk is high:** Evergreen blackberries [Blackberry Rust \(Phragmidium Rust\)](#) See [alert](#) at the top of the newsletter.
- **Risk higher than normal:** [Phytophthora Root Rot](#) raspberries: *Warming, saturated soils favor Phytophthora spread & infections* 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.

### Viruses

- **Prime Time to scout for:** [Shock virus](#), southern blueberries. Symptoms are just becoming visible in many fields.

### Insects/Mites

- **Prime Time to scout for:** [Winter Moth/Bruce Span Worm](#) blueberries
- **Prime Time to scout for:** [Leafroller larvae](#) blueberries
- **Prime Time to scout for:** [Clay Colored Weevils](#) northern raspberries

## Vertebrates

- **Voles, all berries:** *Zinc Phosphide baits can only be used up to budbreak.*
  - [Click here](#) for some background and biology information on voles (or meadow mice).
  - [Click here](#) for information on how to construct bait stations.
  - [Click here](#) for a video of Vole Traps and Trapping Techniques- might be a bit labor intensive for some, but looks good for organic management.

## Additional, Ongoing Pest Management & IPM Information

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### Insects/Mites

- **Strawberry Crown Moth, southern strawberries:** It's now possible to find the larvae in the crowns of strawberry plants in some SW Washington fields.
- **Root Weevils, southern strawberries:** Larvae of [Black Vine](#), [Rough Strawberry](#), [Strawberry Root Weevils](#) are now being recovered from some strawberry fields.
- **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](#). **This disease is most prevalent in B.C.**
- **Blueberry Gall Midge, southern blueberries:** The first Gall Midge feeding symptoms are usually found around this time in southern blueberry fields as the first generation of adults emerges from the soil. They could be delayed a week or two given this year's slow start.
- **Redberry Mite evergreen blackberries**

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## Meeting Information

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For more comprehensive meeting schedule, [click here](#).

- **April 13 — Washington Red Raspberry Commission meeting** ~ Puyallup, WA. Contact [Henry Bierlink](#) or call 360-354-8767 for more information.
- **April 19-20 — Soil & Water Conservation Society “Protecting Natural Resources with Conservation Buffers” Workshop** ~ Portland, OR. [Click here](#) for details. Portland, OR. Someone from EPA will be giving the keynote address. This conference will address many of the issues that are at the center of ongoing legal efforts to limit the use of many pesticides.
- **April 21 — SWD Research Update & Season Warm Up Workshop** ~ OSU, WSU, USDA-ARS—1-4pm, At the North Willamette Research & Extension Center, Aurora, OR. [Click here](#) for the agenda and registration information
- **April 22 — Washington Blueberry Commission meeting** ~ 11am. Olsen Bros. Packing Facility 171 West Forsell Rd., Grandview 98930. Contact [Alan Schreiber](#) 509-266-4300 for more information. [Click here](#) for the agenda.
- **April 26 — Oregon Blueberry Commission meeting** ~ Noon. Santiam Room, West Salem Roth's IGA in Salem. Call (503) 364-2944 for more information.
- **April 28 — Oregon Strawberry Commission meeting** ~ 12pm–3pm. Roth's West in Salem 1130 Wallace Rd. Call 541-758-4043 or [email](#) for more information.
- **April 29 — Whatcom County Spotted Wing Drosophila & Brown Marmorated Stink Bug workshop** ~ North Whatcom, Fire Station 71, 307 19th Street Lynden, WA, 98264. Commercial Growers. 9am – Noon Gardeners/Market Growers 1 - 3pm. [Click here](#) to view the web site. [Click here](#) to RSVP. [Click here](#) for the information sheet (pdf).
- **May 5 — Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission meeting** ~ 6pm, Langdon Farms. Call 541-758-4043 or [email](#) Philip Gutt for more information.
- **May 17 — Skagit County Spotted Wing Drosophila & Brown Marmorated Stink Bug workshop** ~ WSU Mount Vernon, NWREC, 16650 State Route, 536 Mount Vernon, WA, 98273. Commercial Growers 9am – Noon. Gardeners/Market Growers 1 - 2:30pm. [Click here](#) to view the

web site. [Click here](#) to view the web site. [Click here](#) to RSVP. [Click here](#) for the information sheet (pdf).

## Crop work

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### All crops

- Scout for voles and treat as needed.
- Weed management.
- Fertilizer program.
- Can put out monitoring traps for Spotted Wing Drosophila.

### Blueberries

- Weed management note: [Callisto \(mesotrione\)](#) can only be used before bloom.
  - [Click here](#) for information from OSU on the new herbicide options in blueberries.
  - [Spring herbicide choice for blueberries, MSU](#)
- 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.
- Scout for virus symptoms & send in samples for testing as needed.
- Bring in bees around 10-15% bloom.

### Blackberries

- Scout for Purple Blotch lesions in Marion berries to assess field disease levels for later treatments.
- Burn back primocanes as needed.
- **Just beginning as leaf emergence allows:** Can apply phosphite material for Downey Mildew prevention in Boysens and Kotatas.
- **Just beginning as leaf emergence allows:** Scout for virus symptoms & send in samples for testing as needed.

### Evergreen Blackberries

- **Close to the end of time window:** Can still apply a delayed dormant spray of lime/sulfur or elemental sulfur for Redberry mites and Blackberry Rust.

### Raspberries

- Burn back primocanes as needed.
- (northern areas) Scout for Clay Colored Weevil feeding and treat as needed.
- Scout for Cane Blight and Cane Botrytis symptoms.
- **Just beginning as leaf emergence allows:** Scout for virus symptoms & send in samples for testing as needed.
- **Just beginning as leaf emergence allows:** Can apply a phosphite material for stronger root growth and root rot prevention.
- **Just beginning as leaf emergence allows:** Scout for Yellow Rust and assess treatment options.

### Strawberries

- As plants start to grow, watch for weak growing areas and check plants for weevil larvae, root rot and/or cold damage.
- (Southern strawberries) Can scout for Strawberry Crown Moth larvae. Prepare for bloom in the South. At 10% bloom, can apply a fungicide for fruit/blossom rot.
- Can apply a phosphite material for stronger root growth and root rot prevention.
- Can till row centers and/or narrow down the matted rows.
- Can apply slug bait.

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## Archived Small Fruit Updates

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(For older Updates [click here.](#))

[04-06-11](#)

[03-29-11](#)

[03-23-11](#)