



March 11, 2002

Last week's cold weather up north will certainly have an effect on this year's berry crops grown in B.C. and northern Washington. We'll need to wait a few weeks to get a realistic assessment of the damage done.

Small Fruit Workshop & Raspberry Commission Meeting next Tuesday, March 19: A full day of grower information organized by the WSU Vancouver Research and Extension Unit will be followed by a Washington Red Raspberry Commission meeting. To see the workshop agenda, [click here](#). It'll be held at the Vancouver campus of WSU. For more information, call the Vancouver Extension Unit at 360-576-6030 or the commission's executive director, Henry Bierlink, at 360-354-8767.

Orbit Section 18 still in process: We're still waiting to hear if Washington blueberry growers will have **Orbit (Propiconazole)** available in time for mummyberry control. The Section 18 application from the Washington Department of Ag to EPA went out last Friday morning. I'm being told that we might have it available by the end of the month. We certainly need it much sooner. There's still a chance we could get a crisis exemption before that. If you want more information, you can call Dorothy & Gus Anderson of the Washington Blueberry Commission at 360-766-6150 or Alan Schreiber with the Agriculture Development Group at 509-266-4348. Oregon has an OK to use **Indar** (Fenbuconazole). **Funginex** (Triforine), if you can find it, is still legal to use in both states.

Fertilizer: The first applications should go on blueberries and caneberries between mid-March and the end of the month.

It's also time (in fact a little late) for scouting for **cane diseases in blueberries** and to check on **mouse/ vole** populations.

Cropwork:

Blueberries: 1) Finish pruning. 2) Pre emergent herbicide can be applied. 3) Copper or Bordeaux can be applied for bacterial blight control. 4) If mummyberry has been a problem in the field, plan control strategy. 5) Scout for winter moth. 6) Scout for bacterial cane diseases. 7) Scout for mouse and vole damage & bait if necessary.

Strawberries: 1) Scout for root weevil and Strawberry Crown Moth in weak growth areas.

All Caneberries: 1) Finish canework. 2) Pre emergent herbicide can be applied. 3) Ridomil can be applied for root rot control. 4) Lime sulfur (with or without oil) can be applied for disease and mite control. 5) Apply drench for crown borer control if field has shown previous damage. 6) Scout for mouse and vole damage & bait if necessary

Weather: Wet with a chance of some snow. Highs around 50. Lows in the mid 30's.

Disease Update: Mummyberries are sprouting in area blueberry fields. Be ready to treat when the vegetative buds start opening (Not the flower buds but the vegetative buds). The overwintering mummyberries send up a mushroom like fruiting cup at this time of year ([click here for picture of fruiting cups](#)). It releases spores that land on new vegetative growth, infecting it. The new growth is susceptible from budbreak to about 1 inch long. About three weeks after a shoot is infected it will produce a secondary spore release, which then infects the blossoms. This second infection produces the hard "mummyberries" that drop to the ground, overwinter, and release spores the next year. To stop the first stage, the vegetative buds need to have a fungicide present,

- If you're trying to avoid chemical applications, now is the time to destroy as many of the developing fruiting cups as possible by raking or cultivating the soil.
- For chemical controls see above.

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