

# Small Fruit Update



Disseminating information for the [Washington Red Raspberry Commission](#).

## March 10, 2003

The Whatcom County area just got hit with some severe weather over the weekend. Freezing temperatures (22-30 degrees) with northeast winds 10-20 mph before any precipitation and now freezing rain has left everything pretty iced over. Blueberries and raspberries both have swelling buds. Some damage is likely but it's too early to tell how much. Conditions have rapidly warmed up and the week ahead just looks wet and windy.

It's tough to get anything done in the fields in all regions. Lime Sulfur is in the process of being applied on Marion's in the Willamette Valley. New field preparations are stalled.

So I guess it as good a time as any to let you know what can be done inside for the next couple of weeks...

**Small Fruits No-Host Breakfast Meeting in Lynden:** This Thursday there'll be a 7 AM meeting at the Dutch Mother's restaurant, 405 Front Street. Discussion will be on early season monitoring for pests in blueberries and raspberries with particular attention given to Blueberry Scorch Virus symptoms and plant tissue sampling techniques. Pesticide re-certification credits will be available. Call Todd Murray at 360-676-6736 for information.

**Weekly Grower meeting in Woodland:** We've had good attendance the last two weeks. It's at the Oak Tree restaurant Friday mornings at 7 AM. A good time to network with other growers and industry people in the area. This week we'll be talking about the results of a strawberry crown moth survey of area fields as well as winter moth in blueberries and weevils in strawberries. Call Tom at 503-289-7287 for info.

**WSU Extension Workshop for Berry Growers at the Vancouver** campus of WSU happens a week from Wednesday (March 19<sup>th</sup>). It'll go from 8 AM to 2:30. Click ([here](#)) to see an agenda or get directions. Six Washington re-certification credits and five Oregon credits are available. You can also call 360-576-6030 for information

Following the above workshop the Washington Red Raspberry Commission meeting will take place beginning around 3:30 at the Vancouver WSU campus. Call Henry at 360-354-8767 for more information. This is the only meeting scheduled for the southern part of the state this year.

We have a workshop planned for **March 20 and 21** on the **Caneberry Pest Management Strategic Plan** for the Northwest. Around 30 industry people will help finalize this detailed document that can be used by the EPA, USDA and other regulatory agencies to understand our pest control problems and solutions. It will also be useful in clarifying for our industry what our regulatory, research and education priorities are. We've got a **draft available** for anyone who would like to see it and give us some feedback. [Email](#) us or call 503-289-7287.

**School Food Service Sale announced:** The USDA has offered to purchase up to 500,000 lbs. of IQF raspberries, 800,000 lbs. of frozen seedless raspberry puree and 1,250,000 lbs. of IQF blackberries. Click here to [view details](#).

## Chemical control update

**Mummyberry chemical controls approved:** Indar (fenbuconazole) has been granted a Section 18 emergency label for mummyberry control in Oregon. Orbit (propiconazole) has been granted a similar label for use in Washington. Growers need to have the Section 18 label in hand at the time of application. Rates and restrictions are the same as in previous years.

## Disease Update:

**1) Mummyberries** are just beginning to sprout in Oregon and Southern Washington blueberry fields. Now is the time to plan your control strategy. 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.

**2) Phytophthora Root Rot** in raspberries. Ridomil (metalaxyl) can go on now to help control root rot. Apply it just before or during rain so it doesn't have a chance to volatilize.

## Insect Update

**1) Raspberry Crown Borer treatment:** If you've had problems with borers, March is the time to treat with an insecticide drench. Treatments should be made for two successive years.

**2) Winter moth** in blueberries. There are reports of Winter moth hatches on ornamentals and fruit trees in Whatcom county. Scout blueberry fields weekly to look for bud damage. Using your hand lens, look for small holes chewed through the side of the bud scales and outer tissue. Break open suspect buds to look for small larvae.

**3) Leafrollers.** Overwintering orange tortrix leafrollers were collected and reared out at the Vancouver WSU research station last week. Fifty percent were found to be parasitized. Many of our beneficial parasitic wasp species overwinter within leafroller larvae. This is an indication that some pest populations below economic thresholds can be useful in maintaining a reservoir of beneficial insects that can hold later pest populations in check.

## Cropwork:

**All Caneberries:** 1) Can apply Ridomil for Phytophthora root rot control. 2) Can apply an insecticide drench to control borers. 3) Pre-emergent weed control can be applied. 4) Can apply lime sulfur for disease control. 5) Fertilizer can be applied.

**Blueberries:** 1) Scout for bud damage & determine cause. 2) Copper or Bordeaux can be applied for bacterial blight control. 3) Pre-emergent weed control can be applied. 4) Scout for mummyberry fruiting cups. 5) Scout rodent populations and bait if necessary. 6) Fertilizer can be applied.

**Strawberries:** 1) Pre-emergent weed control can be applied. 2) Scout weak areas for presence of weevil larvae or strawberry crown moth.

## Weather for the week:

**(South):** Some drier periods early in the week then more steady rain. Lows 40-45. Highs 50-55.

**(North):** Windy and wet. Lows 40-45. Highs 50-55.

## Calendar:

**March 11 Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission** Meeting will be at the Holiday Inn in Wilsonville, OR at 11:00 am. For information call 541-758-4043 or [e-mail](#)

**March 13 Lingonberry Conference** at the National Germplasm Repository, Peoria Road, Corvallis, Or. Call Ross or Linda at 541-682-7308 for information.

**March 19 WSU Extension Workshop for Berry Growers**, Vancouver campus of WSU, Call 360-576-6030 for information. Click ([here](#)) for information.

**March 19 Washington Red Raspberry Commission** meeting will take place following the WSU grower workshop beginning around 3:30 at the Vancouver WSU campus. Call Henry at 360-354-8767 for more information.

\*\*\*\*\*

5261 N. Princeton ~ Portland, OR 97203 ~ Office phone: (503) 289-7287 ~ Fax: (503) 289-7229

Cell phone: (503) 970-0922 ~ email [info@peerbolt.com](mailto:info@peerbolt.com) ~ website <http://www.peerbolt.com>