

Small Fruit Update



Disseminating information for the [Washington Red Raspberry Commission](#) and the [Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission](#)

March 24, 2003

- The wet weather is really interfering with activities. Blueberries should be getting fungicide applications for **mummyberry control** but many are being delayed—could show up in more mummyberry problems this year.
- Many **pre-emergent herbicide** applications have also been delayed. Some caneberry growers will be combining the pre-emergent with their cane burning applications.
- Also time to check on **winter moth** in blues—the larvae are showing up in all regions.

The **Caneberry Pest Management Strategic Plan Workshop** held last Thursday and Friday in Portland brought together over 30 caneberry growers, researchers, fieldmen and regulators for a pretty intense review of our pest management practices. The final document (about 50 pages) will take two or three months to finalize, but listed below is a non-finalized draft **summary of the top industry priorities** that we selected for the areas of research, regulation and education. These are not listed in any prioritized order, just as a group. I'm sure the wording will also be improved/changed. Any feedback is welcome...

Research:

Develop methods for contaminant control.
Develop and evaluate economic pest thresholds for better modeling.
Long range planning/research system incorporating new technologies.
Replacements for diazinon, Nema-cur, Guthion and methyl bromide.
Develop control strategies for *Phytophthora* control including resistant varieties.
Develop strategies for controlling raspberry bushy dwarf virus including resistant varieties.
Improve control strategies for hard to control perennial weeds.
Need for shorter PHIs/REIs for pre-harvest and harvest clean up applications.

Regulatory:

Approval of methyl bromide for continuing use by nurseries.
Streamline methods for registering uses for minor crops.
Even the playing field for international trade, MRLs and tariffs.
Allow multiple active ingredient Section 18s for resistance management.
Retain diazinon use pattern.
Consistency between REIs and PHIs to allow more practical use of materials.

Education:

Need a fully funded extension/research system at land-grant universities.
Need full support of IR-4 to assist caneberry producers in obtaining minor crop tolerances.
Keep USDA's Northwest Center for Small Fruits Research fully funded.
Educate growers on pest thresholds, identification and IPM techniques.
Continue to educate on resistance management for all pesticides.
Support and strengthen IPM programs at universities.

Scorch Virus Information: WSU Whatcom County has posted a web page with Blueberry Scorch Virus information and sampling guidelines at <http://whatcom.wsu.edu/ag/comhort/BISV.htm> Sampling for blueberry scorch virus is best accomplished at full bloom. Now is a good time to develop a sampling plan. You can call Todd Murray with any questions at 360-676-6736.

Degree Day Information: At last Wednesday's Small Fruit Workshop in Vancouver, WA. Len Coop, an OSU entomologist, gave a great report on the website he's developed for gathering and distributing real time **degree day information for Washington, Oregon and Idaho** It also has a number of specific pest degree day models that can be figured for any area. It can be found at <http://pnwpest.org/wea>.

Disease Update:

- 1) Mummyberry:** Many blueberry fields are at or past green tip stage so **protective fungicide applications should be applied if mummyberry has been a problem.** 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. Now is the time for Ridomil (metalaxyl) applications to help control phytophthora. Its advisable to do it just before or during rain.

Insect Update

- 1) Spanworm/ Winter moth** in blueberries. When scouting for these species use your hand lens and look for small holes chewed through the side of the bud scales and outer tissue. Break open suspect buds to look for small larvae. As they mature you might see a small amount of webbing tightly holding a dying flower-bud-cluster together with a small green caterpillar feeding inside.
- 2) 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.

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.

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. 6) Plan for primocane control --timing depends on material or method used.

Blueberries: 1) Scout for winter moth and treat if necessary. 2) Pre-emergent weed control can be applied. 3) Can treat for mummyberry. 5) Scout rodent populations and bait if necessary. 6) Fertilizer can be applied. 7) Plan to bring in bees at 10% bloom. If you bring them in too early, they can get used to going to sources other than the blueberries. Also control dandelions in field to take away alternate pollen source.

Strawberries: 1) Scout weak areas for presence of weevil larvae or strawberry crown moth. 3) As new growth gets going, scout for cyclamen mites. 3) Scout for two-spotted mites. 4) Scout rodent populations and bait if necessary.

Weather for the week:

(South): More of the same—rain and showers. Lows 35-40. Highs around 50. Snow down to 2,500 feet.

(North): Warmer than the South and maybe a little dryer. Lows 40-45. Highs 50-55.

Calendar:

March 28 Friday Grower Meeting in Woodland at the Oak Tree restaurant at 7 AM. Call Tom at 503-289-7287 for information.

April 21 Washington Blueberry Commission annual meeting will be held at the WSU Puyallup Research and Extension Station at 10 AM.

April 29 Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission Meeting at the North Willamette Research and Extension Station at 5 PM. For information call 541-758-4043 or [e-mail](#).

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