

Small Fruit Update



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

The next update will be this Friday (4/4) instead of Monday. Anna and I are taking a long weekend....

March 31, 2003

As we've expanded the area covered by this Update, We've needed to increasingly rely on information coming from industry contacts in varying locations. We really want to acknowledge their input, without it this just wouldn't work. So....Thanks! We'd list their names but suspect they prefer a little anonymity. We believe a stronger small fruit industry will result from pooling our diverse resources and sharing area-wide growing information.

Even with the cold rainy weather returning this week, a lot is happening in the field. Some caneburning in raspberries got done during the 70 degree sunny weekend and blueberries are starting to bloom in the south. Also...

Blackberries in the central Willamette valley: Development is close to where it was last year. Silvans are furthest along with spurs 2"-4" and nice, even bud break. Most alternate cropping year (AY) Marions have pushed buds (1"-3") with even bud break. Every cropping year (EY) fields are, as usual, a little behind. Some February trained fields are showing sporadic bud break. Boysenberry development is similar to the Marions.

Raspberry Fruitworm. Todd Murray with the Whatcom county IPM Program is going to be putting out the new experimental fruitworm traps in the next couple of weeks. Contact him if you'd like to have fruitworm populations monitored in your raspberry field. 360-676-6736.

Mummyberry alternative control measures: Wei Yang, the OSU berry extension agent recently sent out an Oregon Blueberry Newsletter in which he listed a number of management strategies that can be employed to disrupt the mushroom like fruiting cups of mummyberry. These shouldn't be relied on for total control and need to be repeated, since the fruiting cups can be present for several weeks. They include: 1) Disrupting the soil by cultivation. 2) Dragging chains along the ground. 3) Flaming. 4) Spraying the soil surface with lime sulfur. 5) The herbicides diuron and simazine affect development of the fruiting cups.

Dr. Yang can be reached at the North Willamette Research and Extension Station 503 678-1264 x 26 or email wie.yang@oregonstate.edu if you'd like to get the newsletter.

Insect Update

1) Spanworm/Winter moth larvae are now present in many area blueberry fields. Check for dying or dead flower buds with webbing and/or a small green caterpillar inside. Treatment thresholds are not well established but 'significant' populations can impact yields by destroying enough flower buds.

2) Aphids. Early season aphid control could be necessary in situations where they can **vector viruses**. These include blueberry fields infected with or in close proximity to **blueberry scorch virus** and virus susceptible strawberry varieties such as **Hood**.

3) Overwintering rough strawberry root weevils are being picked up in area strawberry and caneberry fields. When brought in to the lab, they are laying small numbers of eggs. Just another sign that we've still got some work to do figuring out weevil lifecycles and control strategies.

4) Clay colored root weevil adults are beginning to come out in the northern raspberry fields. Scout for feeding damage on emerging buds. At the same time scout for **cutworm** feeding damage.

5) Orange tortrix traps will be going out this week in my Southwest Washington caneberry fields.

Disease Update:

1) Mummyberry: Many blueberry fields are at or past green tip stage so **protective fungicide applications should be applied now 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.

Chemical control update

1) **Success** (spinosad) does now have a new caneberry label for control of insects. It doesn't affect most beneficials but be aware that it is **toxic to bees** exposed to a direct spray. Use should be avoided when bees are actively foraging. Once dry however, residues are harmless to bees.

2) Two recently issued labels are *attached* to this Update. One is the full federal label recently given for **Switch** (cyprodinil

& fludioxonil) for mold control in caneberries. The other is the Section 18 emergency exemption label for the use of **Orbit** (propiconazole) to control mummyberry in blueberries in Washington State.

Cropwork:

Caneberries: 1) Can apply Ridomil for Phytophthora root rot control (North). 2) Can apply an insecticide drench to control borers (North). 3) Pre-emergent weed control can be applied. 4) Can apply lime sulfur for disease control (North), 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. 8) Scout for aphids in fields having or close to fields having blueberry scorch virus.

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. 5) Scout for low levels of aphids in virus susceptible varieties (like Hoods).

Cranberries: Time for herbicide application.

Weather for the week:

(South): Rain and showers. Lows 35-40. Highs 50-55. Low snow levels and a chance of frost.

(North): Showers. Lows 35-40. Highs 50-55. A chance of frost.

Calendar:

April 21 Washington Blueberry Commission annual meeting will be held at the WSU Puyallup Research and Extension Station at 10 AM in the Chicon Room of the Administration Bldg., 7612 Pioneer Way E., Puyallup, WA.

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](#).

May 29 - 31 Food Alliance is one of 45 non-profit and government agencies collaborating to present **The Sustainability Forum** in Portland. The Forum will take place at the Hilton Portland and Executive Tower. Call (503)222-7041 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 ~ website <http://www.peerbolt.com>