

Small Fruit Update



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

April 4, 2003

Well, it's been cold and wet and it appears that at least the wet is going to go on for a while. So it seems like a good time to let you know some of the caneberry research that's being done this year.

The Northwest Center for Small Fruits Research has become a cornerstone for caneberry work. As WSU, OSU and the commissions have recently been committing fewer resources to extension and research, the stable USDA funding of the Small Fruit Center has given the industry a vital alternative source for research money and researchers. Here's a list of current caneberry projects:

- Organic Management of Raspberry Root Rot -- Carol Miles, Peter Bristow.
- Reaction of Red Raspberry Genotypes to Phytophthora Root Rot -- Peter R. Bristow, Patrick P. Moore.
- Control Strategies for Root weevils in Strawberries & Red Raspberries -- Lynell Tanigoshi.
- Detection & Monitoring of Tomato Ringspot Virus in Red Raspberry & Dagger Nematodes -- Robert Martin, Jack Pinkerton.
- Alternative Production Systems for Marion Blackberry -- Bernadine Strik.
- Development of a Winter Hardy Blackberry -- Tony Chen, Chad Finn.
- Can Salmonella & E. Coli Contaminate Harvested Berries & do They Survive in Fresh & Frozen Berry Juices/Purees? -- Mark A. Daeschel.
- Characterization of 'Marion' Blackberry Flavor & Comparison with Thornless Advanced Selections -- Michael Qian.
- Fruit Quality Evaluation of Major Cultivars of Red Raspberry Grown in the Pacific Northwest -- Michael Qian, Robert Martin.
- Storability & Nutritional Values of Strawberries & Raspberries by Nutraceutical Integrated Edible Coatings -- Yanyun Zhao.

Some of the **other major sources of northwest small fruit research funding** are the various commissions, the Washington State Commission on Pesticide Registration, and the Canadian commodity groups. I'll try to list their projects as time and space permits.

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.

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.**

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) Fertilizer can be applied. 5) 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. 4) Scout rodent populations and bait if necessary. 5) Fertilizer can be applied. 6) 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. 7) 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. 2) 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). 6) Can apply Fosphite or Aliette (or equivalent) for root rot.

Cranberries: Time for herbicide application.

Weather for the week:

(South): Rain and showers. Lows 40-45. Highs 50-60.

(North): Showers and rain. Lows around 40. Highs around 50.

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.

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