

Small Fruit Update



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

April 14, 2003

This is getting pretty old...continued wet pattern this week. Just might get in a couple of dry days. New field plantings are especially being delayed.

We've added some folks to this update, so just to review what we're trying to do-- some of our "**ground rules**"—1) Since this is going out to many sources, we generally keep any recommendations broad rather than specific---more like informal reminders. 2) We'd prefer to send this to you by email rather than fax, so if you are getting this by fax and can switch, let us know. 3) A disclaimer—This is meant to be our opinion and isn't to be taken for anything other than that. Rates, timing and anything else affecting your crop should always be used according to label recommendations and/or your own best judgment. Please check with your local extension folks and industry consultants if you've got questions.

Field day dates have been set for WSU Extension and Research Stations this summer. They are:

June 10 Puyallup Strawberry Field Day, WSU Puyallup Farm 5, 3:00-5:00 pm.

July 10, Puyallup Raspberry Field Day, WSU Puyallup Farm 5, 3:00-5:00 pm.

July 24, Mt Vernon Small Fruit Field Day, WSU Mt. Vernon, 3:00-5:00 pm.

August 14, Vancouver Small Fruit Field Day, WSU Vancouver Station, 1:00-4:00 pm.

The **Washington Blueberry Commission** is having their annual meeting next Monday, April 21, 10 am at the Puyallup WSU Station. There will be a report on the program to keep **blueberry scorch virus** from spreading from Canadian fields into Washington and Oregon as well as reports on their research and promotion projects. Call Dorothy Anderson at 360-766-6150 for information.

Weekly Friday morning grower breakfast. There won't be a breakfast meeting at the Oak Tree restaurant in Woodland this Friday morning. It will resume Friday April 25 at 7:00. Come on by if you've got a chance.

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. If bees are present use *bacillus thuringiensis* formulations for control.

2) Aphids. Not any signs of significant populations yet but early season aphid control can 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) 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.

2) Shock virus symptoms are beginning to show up in southern area blueberry fields. The newly developing buds suddenly turn black and die. Infected plants recover but produce no crop for a year. No treatments are available. It's vectored by bees.

3) **Rust** is becoming visible in raspberries in the south. The present spore stages ([click here for picture](#)) don't require treatment.

Cropwork:

Caneberries: 1) Fertilizer can be applied. 2) Plan for primocane control --timing depends on material or method used.

Blueberries: 1) Scout for winter moth and treat if necessary. 2) Can treat for mummyberry. 3) Fertilizer can be applied. 5) 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. 6) 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) Scout for cyclamen mites. 3) Scout for two-spotted mites. 4) Scout for low levels of aphids in virus susceptible varieties (like Hoods). 5)Can apply Fosphite or Aliette (or equivalent) for root rot.

Cranberries: 1)Time for herbicide application.2) Fertilize.

All Crops: Control existing weeds.

Weather for the week:

(South): Chance of showers and rain. Lows in the mid 40s. Highs in the mid 50s

(North): Chance of showers and rain. Lows 40-45. Highs in the mid 50s.

Calendar:

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

April 25 Weekly Friday Morning Grower Meeting, Oak Tree Restaurant, Woodland, WA. 7:00 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](#).

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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