

# Small Fruit Update



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

**April 21, 2003**

The **bloom is developing quickly** in the South in blueberries and strawberries. Most blue varieties are well past the 10% mark and strawberries will probably be there sometime this week. With **showers still in the forecast**, stay on top of fungicide applications to prevent mold problems at harvest. We've now got two excellent low risk, low residue fungicides that are labeled for strawberries, blueberries and caneberries: **Switch** (cyprodinil & fludioxonil) and **Elevate** (fenhexamid).

**Jerry Dobbins**, a long time commissioner for the WRRC and southern Washington small fruit grower underwent open heart surgery this morning (Monday). Cards and letters can be sent to 1405 Goerig Road, Woodland, WA. 98674.

If you'd like to contribute to the **Whatcom starling control program**, get a hold of Henry Bierlink at 360-815-9117.

**Bud break** in the raspberries in the north seems to be kind of slow and inconsistent this year.

## **Insect Update**

- 1) **Spanworm/Winter moth** larvae are now present in many area blueberry fields. [Click here for new pictures of each species](#). Check for dying or dead flower buds with webbing and/or a small green caterpillar inside.
- 2) **Aphid** populations are building in some strawberry fields. 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 present in some northern raspberry fields. Scout for feeding damage on emerging buds. At the same time scout for **cutworm** feeding damage.
- 4) The first **root weevil pupae** are now being recovered from strawberry fields in South. The recovered pupae are pretty large and are most likely **black vine root weevil**. The major species of overwintering adults recovered has been the **rough strawberry root weevil**.
- 5) **Raspberry Fruitworm** traps have been set out this week. This is normally a problem in northern raspberry fields but this year we're also trapping in some southern fields to determine if it's present down here.
- 6) **Orange tortrix & OBLR** traps have gone out in southern fields and the trap numbers in some blackberry fields are already over 200 moths per trap per week. With another mild winter behind us, we can look forward to another heavy and spread out leafroller hatch this harvest season.
- 7) **Two spotted mites** are being found at low levels in raspberries in the south and north.

## **Disease Update:**

- 1) **Mummyberry** in blueberries: Protective fungicide applications should be applied now if mummyberry has been a problem.
- 2) **Shock virus** symptoms are showing up in blueberry fields in all regions. 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. If you suspect your field has a virus but are unsure, you can call Bob Martin, the USDA small fruit virologist to arrange for testing. 541-750-8794.
- 3) **Scorch virus** symptoms are also due to show up in blueberries. It looks very similar to Shock but isn't nearly as common. It is however, much more serious since plants don't recover and should be immediately removed to prevent spread. Again, if you suspect your field has a virus but are unsure, you're encouraged to call Bob Martin, the USDA small fruit virologist and arrange for testing. 541-750-8794. ([Click here for pictures of shock and scorch viruses](#)).
- 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. 3) Scout for rust. 4) Put out pheromone traps for leafrollers. 5) Scout for raspberry fruitworm in the north.
- Blueberries:** 1) Can apply fungicide for preventing fruit mold if bloom is opening 2) Scout for winter moth and treat if

necessary. 3) Can treat for mummyberry. 4) Fertilizer can be applied. 5) Plan to bring in bees at 10% bloom. 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. 7) Scout for Shock and Scorch virus symptoms.

**Strawberries:** 1) Can apply fungicide for preventing fruit mold if bloom is opening 2) Scout weak areas for presence of weevil larvae or strawberry crown moth. 3) Scout for cyclamen mites. 4) Scout for two-spotted mites. 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:** 1) Time for herbicide application. 2) Fertilize.

**All Crops:** Control existing weeds.

**Chemical Control**

Stinger(chlopyralid) has gotten a Special Local Needs label for cranberries to control lotus, aster, and clover species.

**Weather for the week:**

**(South):** Chance of showers all week. Highs near 60. Lows 45-50.

**(North):** Chance of showers all week. Highs in the mid 50s. Lows in the mid 40s.

**Calendar:**

**April 25 Friday Morning Grower Meeting**, Oak Tree Restaurant, Woodland, WA. 7:00 AM. Call Tom at 503-289-7287 for information.

**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 14 Oregon Strawberry Commission Meeting** at Alessandro's restaurant in Salem 5:30 pm. Call 541-758-4043 or [e-mail](#) for information.

**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.

**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.

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