

Small Fruit Update



Disseminating information for: [Washington Red Raspberry Commission](#), [Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission](#), [Oregon Strawberry Commission](#), [Washington Blueberry Commission](#), [Washington Strawberry Commission](#).

February 24, 2004

Time to wake up and smell the tractor. The berries, weeds, insects and fungi are also waking up. Buds are swelling...

Peerbolt Crop Management Insect Research

This year we're concentrating on three insects:

- 1) **Leafrollers in Caneberries:** Along with Dr. Lynell Tanigoshi, we've received a grant from the American Farmland Trust to conduct trials in area-wide leafroller control. We'll be hiring two scouts to work with selected growers in Washington and Oregon to refine their methods of leafroller control.
- 2) **Rough Strawberry Root Weevil in Strawberries:** A grant with the North American Strawberry Association is pending but regardless we'll continue to work with our growers, Dr. Tanigoshi, and industry fieldmen to better understand and control this primary insect threat to our strawberry production.
- 3) **Blueberry Gall Midge in Blueberries:** We're cooperating with Dr. Wei Yang to survey blueberry fields in Oregon and Southwest Washington to determine the incidence, life cycle and economic impact of this recently identified pest. This is being supported by the Northwest Center for Small Fruit Research.

Disclaimer...

Time for the annual disclaimer—The information in these Updates should only be view as **our opinions and suggestions** 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 concerning your specific situation.

...and Acknowledgment

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. Thanks. We believe a stronger small fruit industry will result from pooling our diverse resources and sharing area-wide growing information.

..... and links information

We have begun adding pesticide labels, agendas, and other information on the calendar that usually can only be viewed using Acrobat Reader. If you have trouble with a link, it may be because your machine does not have Acrobat Reader. You can download it for **free** at <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>.

Disease Update

- 1) **Mummyberries** are just beginning to sprout in Oregon and Southern Washington blueberry fields. I found my first one yesterday. Now is the time to plan your control strategy. 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. About three weeks after a shoot is infected it will produce a secondary spore release, which then infects the blossoms. This second infection produces the hard "mummyberries" that drop to the ground, overwinter, and release spores the next year. To stop the first stage, the vegetative buds need to have a fungicide present,
 - If you're trying to avoid chemical applications, now is the time to start destroying or burying as many of the developing fruiting cups as possible by dragging a chain, raking or cultivating the soil. Flaming or lime

sulfur applications can also destroy the cups but you'll need frequent and regular applications to have an impact.

- For chemical controls: We should be receiving the needed emergency labels within the next couple of weeks. Treat when the vegetative buds start opening (Not the flower buds but the vegetative buds).

2) Phytophthora Root Rot in caneberries can be treated with a drench of **Ridomil** in early March. Be sure it gets rained in. Ridomil is pretty volatile.

3) **Blueberry Fruit Drop**, a new virus in blueberries, has been tentatively identified by Dr. Bob Martin. The fruit drops off the entire bush in early green fruit stage. This repeats every year. The disease's occurrence is sporadic so far only being found in five fields—one each in Oregon and Washington and three in B.C. Spread in a field appears very slow. If you suspect a problem in your fields, [email](#) Dr. Martin or call 541-738-4041.

Insect Update

1) **Raspberry Crown Borer** and /or **Strawberry Crown Borer** in caneberries are most effectively treated with an insecticide drench in early March. Be sure it gets well rained in. The major problem is getting the chemical to get down far enough.

2) **Redberry Mites** can be a devastating problem in evergreen blackberries as well as occasionally occurring in other blackberries. They cause the ripening fruit to never fully mature but remain a brick red color. They are best treated with sulfur applications beginning at the delayed dormant stage.

Cropwork

All Crops: 1) Can put out mouse/vole bait as needed. 2) Control weeds.

All Caneberries: 1) Finish canework. 2) Can apply Casoron 4G (Dichlobenil) for weed control. Especially good on quackgrass. Click here for label [here](#). 3) Can apply lime sulfur applications. 3) Can apply Ridomil for root rot control in early March. 4) Can apply insecticide drenches for borer control.

Evergreen Blackberries: Can apply a delayed dormant spray of lime/sulfur or elemental sulfur to help prevent redberry mites.

Blueberries: 1) Finish pruning—can apply Bordeaux or copper after pruning. 2) Scout for bud damage & determine cause. 3) Dormant oil with or without diazinon can be applied for scale and winter moth egg control. 4) Can scout for opening mummyberries in the south.

Strawberries: Can use Spartan 4F(Sulfentrazone) for pre-emergent weed control **until February 28th**. It's off label after that date. To view Section 18 label for Oregon [click here](#). To view Section 18 label for Washington [click here](#).

Weather

North (Whatcom county): Rain and showers. Highs in the low 50s. Lows around 40.

South (North Willamette valley): Rain and showers. Highs in the low 50s. Lows around 40.

Calendar

Feb 24-25 — Organic Agriculture Principles and Practices: Workshops for PNW Ag Professionals ~ Wilsonville, OR. Click [here](#) for details.

Feb 27-28 — U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council Spring Meeting ~ Embassy Suites-100 Capitol Mall in Sacramento, CA. Call 916-326-5000 for information.

March 2 — Blueberry Production Course ~ Salem, OR from 8:30-5:00 for beginning and experienced growers and other agriculture professionals. [Click here](#) for the agenda. This workshop is full. No more registrations are being accepted.

March 23— WSU Extension Workshop for Berry Growers ~ Vancouver, WA campus of WSU. Full day workshop for growers. Agenda will be available later. Call 360-576-6030 x14 for information.

March 23—Washington Red Raspberry Commission ~ Vancouver, WA campus of WSU. Starting at 3:30 following the WSU Extension workshop. Call 360-354-8767 for information.

March 23—Weed Management Short Course ~ Corvallis, OR on the campus of OSU from 8:30 to 4. Call Dan McGrath for information 503-931-8307.

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