

# Small Fruit Update



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

**March 1, 2005**

**Fraser Valley, B.C.:** Raspberry primocanes coming up through the soil, **strawberry** leaves are developing out of the crowns and **cranberries** starting active growth.

**Whatcom County, WA:** It's about time for lime sulfur applications on the baby **raspberry** fields.

**Willamette Valley, OR:** **Kotata** and **Marionberry** blackberry fields are getting applications of sulfur. Spring training of blackberries is also in full swing. The buds on Marions are too far out to do any more machine brushing for detritus removal this year. ([Click here](#) for a picture of the present stage of blueberry buds in the Willamette Valley)

## **WSU Small Fruit Research Changes:**

**1) Dr. Pete Bristow**, the WSU Small Fruit Pathologist, is retiring. Even worse, not only are we losing someone we've depended on for years, but also WSU is **eliminating the small fruit pathologist** position. This leaves a huge gap in our research capacity.

**2) Interviews** have now been set up for the Mt. Vernon **small fruit plant physiologist position**. Anyone can attend and all input is welcome. The three final candidates and the date they'll interview at the Mt. Vernon Station are: 1) Brent Black, USDA Research Horticulturist at Beltsville, MD. March 21. 2) Tom Walters, Research Director, Sakuma Bros Farms. March 25. 3) Sorkel Kadir, Assistant Professor of Fruit Science, Kansas State University. March 30. For more information, contact [Pat Moore](#) 253-445-4525.

## **Disease Update:**

**1) Disease Alert: Mummyberry in blueberries.** Many blueberries are at green bud stage or beyond, and in Oregon and the Willamette Valley mummyberries are sprouting. Growers who have experienced mummyberry problems in the past need to stay on top of control measures at this critical stage of disease development. Click on the bold blue highlight above for scouting and control details as well as photos. The Section 18 Emergency exemption labels for **Indar** (Febuconazole) use in Washington and Oregon is supposed to be coming through as early as tomorrow. If you need to treat before Indar is available, [Pristine](#) (Pyraclostrobin & Boscalid) has shown good control in some trials.

**2) Phytophthora Root Rot:** March is the time to use a fungicide drench for Phytophthora root rot control in raspberries. [Ridomil Gold](#) is pretty volatile and needs to be watered in well for effectiveness. It should be applied just before or during rain.

**Online Classifieds?:** A grower contacted us who has a couple of Littau harvesters he wants to rent out for the season ([Click here if you want more information](#)). It gave us the idea to try an online classified area. If you've got something to offer, let us know. We're still sorting out the rules on this...

**Supplier email updates:** Some fertilizer dealers and Ag suppliers are starting to send out timely updates and info via e-mail, check with your fieldman or dealer office if you're interested.

**Industry Website of the week:** [Gingerich Farms](#) "Home of the Oregon Big Blue". This Oregon blueberry farm family has a wide range of products and information and seems to be taking full advantage of using the Internet to market themselves and their products.

## **Chemical Control:**

([Click here for a list of pesticides labeled for use in small fruits](#))

**1) Indar** (Febuconazole): Still waiting for our section 18 Emergency exemptions in Oregon and Washington for **Indar** for mummyberry control. [Pristine](#) (Pyraclostrobin & Boscalid) has looked promising in some mummyberry control trials.

**2) Guthion:** The EPA announced that it had received a request from the Guthion registrants to terminate its use on caneberries and cranberries by the end of the year. However, Joe DeFrancesco at Oregon State has petitioned the EPA for an extension of our present Guthion use pattern in caneberries for borer control. We should know if the petition is successful within 30 days.

**3) Spartan (Sulfentrazone):** The Section 18 Emergency use label for the use of Spartan for weed control in strawberries expired on February 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Cropwork:**

**All Crops:** 1) Can put out [mouse/vole](#) bait as needed. After budbreak, **zinc phosphide baits** are off label. 2) Trap for moles. 3) Can still apply lime/dolomite to raise soil pH.

**All Caneberries:** 1) Finish canework. 2) Weed control. 3) Scout for bud damage/feeding & determine cause. 4) Scout for cane diseases. 5) Can treat for [Redberry mite](#) with a delayed dormant sulfur application. 6) Can apply a delayed dormant application of lime sulfur when buds have broken for disease control.

**Blueberries:** 1) Finish pruning. 2) Scout for bud damage & determine cause. 3) Dormant oil can be applied for scale and winter moth egg control. 4) Scout for mummyberries and treat as needed. 6) Scout for cane diseases. 7) Copper or Bordeaux can be applied for bacterial blight control. 8) Scout for Winter Moth larvae.

**Strawberries:** 1) Weed control. 2) As plants start growing, check weak areas for root weevil larvae, strawberry crown borers or root disease problems.

[Weather Forecast](#) by Rufus La Lone.

**Ongoing Seasonal Pest Information**

**Insects/ Mites:** Click on highlighted name below for in depth specific information on the pest.

1) [Leafroller larvae](#): Blueberries. Scout for buds held tightly together with webbing.

2) [Redberry mites](#): Evergreen blackberries and Marionberries.

3) [Scale](#): Blueberries. A dormant oil or **Esteem (Pyriproxyfen)** can be used while blueberries are dormant.

4) [Winter moth](#): Blueberries. If you have had winter moth problems you can start your prevention program with a Diazinon or oil application now. Begin scouting for winter moth larvae as buds start breaking.

5) [Crown Borers](#): Caneberries. March is the time to drench for crown borer control in caneberries.

**Diseases:** Click on highlighted name for in depth pest information.

1) [Mummyberry](#): Blueberries. See Above.

2) [Bacterial Blight](#): Blueberries. Copper applications recommended as buds break.

3) [Purple Blotch](#): Blackberries. Lime Sulfur applications recommended in the spring.

**Calendar**

For an expanded online calendar, [click here](#).

**March 10—Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission Meeting** ~ Noon, Sweet Briar Inn, Tualatin, OR Call 541-758-4043 or [email](#) for information. To see the agenda, [click here](#).

**March 15—Oregon Blueberry Commission Meeting** ~ Noon, Roth's West Salem IGA, Salem, OR, Call 503-364-2944 for information

**March 16—WSU Extension Workshop for Berry Growers** ~ Vancouver, WA campus of WSU. Call Dr. Lynell Tanigoshi at 306-576-6030 x 12 for details – [click here for agenda](#).

**March 16— Washington Red Raspberry Commission Meeting** ~ WA campus of WSU, Vancouver. Following the WSU workshop. For details call Henry at the Commission office 360-354-8767.

**March 22— Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission Grower Workshop** ~ 1:00, North Willamette Station, Aurora, OR. Call Tom at 503-289-7287 for information or [email](#).

**April 7— Oregon Strawberry Commission** ~ Noon, Allesandro's restaurant, Salem, OR Call 541-758-4043 or [email](#) for information.

**Small Fruit Cold Storage Reports**

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