

# Small Fruit Update



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

**March 15, 2005**

Bees are coming into some of the southern blueberry fields. I'm surprised so far by how few bumblebees seem to be active. Maybe it's the early season? Anyone have an answer/speculation?

## New pest Information

### Diseases:

**Blueberry Viruses:** [Blueberry Shock virus](#) symptoms are beginning to show up in southern blueberry fields. This is about two weeks earlier than last year. The newly developing buds suddenly turn black and die. Infected plants recover but produce no crop for a year. No treatments are available. [Scorch virus](#) symptoms are also due to show up in blueberries. It looks very similar to Shock but is much more serious since plants don't recover and should be immediately removed to prevent spread. If you suspect your field has a virus, call Bob Martin, the USDA small fruit virologist and arrange for testing. 541-750-8794.

**Cane Blight:** Raspberries. A good time to spot symptoms of cane blight is as the buds break. Infected canes will show either no budbreak if the cane has been girdled or one sided bud break if the infection is on one side. Scrape canes to look for rust colored streaks usually coming up from machine harvester scars. There is no treatment for cane blight, only prevention. The time to protect next year's canes from infection is immediately after harvest when fresh wounds become infected.

### Insects/ Mites:

**Winter moth:** Blueberries. Begin scouting for winter moth larvae as buds start breaking. Larvae have been recovered from laurel in King County but still no reports of a hatch in blueberries.

## 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) [Crown Borers](#): Caneberries. If you've had borer problems in the past, March is the time to drench for crown borer control in caneberries

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

- 1) **Alert:** [Mummyberry in blueberries](#). Mummyberries are now being found sprouting throughout the northwest growing region. Click on the bold blue highlight above for scouting and control details as well as photos.
- 2) [Bacterial Blight](#): Blueberries. Copper applications recommended as buds break.
- 3) [Purple Blotch](#): Blackberries. Lime Sulfur applications recommended in the spring.
- 4) [Phytophthora Root Rot](#): If you have a Phytophthora root rot problem in raspberries, March is the time to use a fungicide drench for control. [Ridomil Gold](#) is pretty volatile and needs to be watered in well for effectiveness. It should be applied just before or during rain.

**Industry Website of the week:** [Oregon Berry Packing Company](#). They've set up a system for customers to find out where their blueberries came from by use of a tracking code (click on Where are my blueberries grown? on their home page.)

### Chemical Control:

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

- 1) **Indar** (Febuconazole) has been approved for emergency use for mummyberry control in blueberries in Oregon and Washington. Click here for the [Washington label](#). Click here for the [Oregon label](#).
- 3) **Spartan** (Sulfentrazone): The Section 18 Emergency use label for Spartan for weed control in strawberries has been renewed for Washington and now runs through February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2006. [Click here for Washington Section 18 label](#). The Oregon label is still pending. Read the label carefully and don't use over actively growing plants.

**Oregon field day schedule:** Here are the dates for the field days at the North Willamette Research and Extension Center: **Strawberry** Open House, June 1, 2:00pm, **Caneberry** Open House, June 29, 2:00pm, **Blueberry** Field day, July 7, 1:00pm to 5:00pm.

**Cropwork:**

**All Crops:** 1) Plan for spring fertilizer applications. 2) Weed control.

**All Caneberries:** 1) Finish canework! Now! 2) Scout for bud damage/feeding & determine cause. 3) Scout for cane diseases. 4) Control primocane growth as needed. 5) Can apply a delayed dormant application of lime sulfur when buds have broken for disease control.

**Blueberries:** 1) (south) Get the bees in at around 10% bloom. 2) (south) Scout for virus symptoms Scout for bud damage & determine cause. 3) (north) Dormant oil can be applied for scale and winter moth egg control. 4) Scout for mummyberries and treat as needed. 5) Scout for cane diseases. 6) (north) Copper or Bordeaux can be applied for bacterial blight control. 7) Scout for Winter Moth larvae.

**Strawberries:** As plants start growing, scout weak areas for root weevil larvae, strawberry crown borers or root disease problems.

**Weather Forecast** by Rufus La Lone.

**Calendar**

For an expanded online calendar, [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.

**Online Classifieds:** If you've got something to offer, let us know. So far, we've just got one--A couple of Littau harvesters to rent out for the coming season.

**Small Fruit Cold Storage Reports**

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