

Small Fruit Update



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

March 29, 2005

And the rains return... Up to five inches in eastern Clark County, Washington over the weekend. Around three inches was recorded in the Willamette Valley. Most plant growth and field operations are on hold. At least there's no frosty weather is in sight. Not much drying in sight either...

All Blueberries: It's prime time and prime conditions for **mummyberry infections** in blueberries. Get the controls on whenever possible. This is the type of weather pattern that can allow the disease to really build up due to the difficulty in getting protective fungicides in place.

Southern Blueberries: Some **bees** are in the blueberry fields (or in the hives in the fields). Worries over poor **pollination** weather are at full bloom. **Dukes** appear to be anywhere from 5 to 20 percent open, depending on field and location. Some **Rubels** are also getting bees this week.

Southern Strawberries: They aren't as far ahead of their usual season as the blueberries. This is probably due to more influence of the ground temperatures rather than the air temperature. The first new plantings in southwest Washington started going in just before the rain started.

British Columbia: Blueberry bloom has started. Early **black currant** varieties are flowering in Chilliwack. **Blackberries** have long lateral extension with some new shoots several inches long. Some **raspberry** fields are still not tied up due to a labor shortage.

Raspberry IPM field day In Lynden next Monday (4/4): **Raspberry beetle** information and details on the new WRRRC **Phytophthora** survey project will be highlighted. It will be at Randy Honcoop's Farm (9696 Northwood Road), 10AM. For more information, contact Colleen Burrows at cburrows@wsu.edu.

WSU Small Fruit Physiologist Candidates: Interview videotapes of the three candidates up for this position are available. If you would like to review them and submit confidential comments to the search committee, contact [Henry Bierlink](#) in the north at 360-354-8767 or [Tom Peerbolt](#) in the south at 503-289-7287. All comments need to be received by WSU by April 4th.

Chemical Control:

1) [FarmSaver.Com](#) has registered a generic form of abamectin called [Abba 0.15EC Miticide/Insecticide](#) for use in strawberries. This is the same active ingredient found in [Agri-mek](#).

2) **Caution:** There are reports of some dealers talking about potential supply shortages and encouraging growers to stock up early with fungicides and insecticides. None of our sources have heard of shortages. I'd recommend checking around to be sure of the situation before you act on rumors.

Industry Website of the week: The [National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service](#). There's a lot of solid information and connections here.

Cropwork:

All Crops: 1) Plan for spring fertilizer applications. Many growers are applying now. 2) Weed control.

All Caneberries: 1) In the north, scout for clay cooler weevil. 2) Scout for cane diseases. 3) Control primocane growth as needed. 4) Can drench for borer control. 5) If Phytophthora root rot is a problem, can apply Ridomil for control (raspberries only).

Blueberries: 1) Get the bees in at around 10% bloom. 2) Scout for virus symptoms. 3) Scout for Winter Moth larvae and treat as needed. 4) Scout for mummyberries and treat as needed. 5) Scout for bud damage & determine cause.

Strawberries: 1) As plants start growing, scout weak areas for root weevil larvae, strawberry crown borers or root disease problems. 2) Can apply slug bait. 3) Till row centers. 4) Can apply foliar Fosphite, Aliette or equivalent product for root rot control.

Ongoing Seasonal Pest Information

(Click on Blue Highlighted pest name for scouting and control information)

Insects/ Mites:

- 1) **Winter moth:** Blueberries. Watch flower buds for webbing and feeding symptoms.
- 2) **Clay colored weevil:** Raspberries. Some reports of chewing damage this week. It's time for adults of this species to start emerging in northern raspberry fields where they feed on the just breaking raspberry buds. Click on the highlighted name for pictures and more information.
- 3) **Redberry mites:** Evergreen blackberries and Marionberries.
- 4) **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:

- 1) **Alert: Mummyberry in blueberries.** Mummyberries are now being found sprouting throughout the northwest growing region. The wet weather increases the likelihood of infections.
- 2) **Blueberry Viruses: Blueberry Shock virus** symptoms are showing up in southern 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. **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 by aphids. If you suspect that your blueberry field has a virus problem you can call Bob Martin to arrange for testing at (541) 738-4041 or [email](#) him.
- 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.
- 5) **Cane Blight:** Raspberries. A good time to spot symptoms of cane blight is as the buds break.

Other Pests:

Voles/meadow mice: All crops. Click on the highlighted name for information on scouting, baiting and bait stations.

Slugs: Strawberries. A sign of the weather...

Weather Forecast by Rufus La Lone.

Calendar

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

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

May 11—Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission ~ 5:30 Sweet Briar Inn, Tualatin, OR Call 541-758-4043 or [email](#) for information.

Small Fruit Cold Storage Reports

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