

Small Fruit Update



February 8, 2006

[Event Calendar](#)

[Small Fruit Cold Storage Reports](#)

[Weather Forecast](#) by Rufus La Lone

Vole Control: I'm still seeing signs of a lot of recent vole activity. Remember that zinc phosphide baits can be applied only until budbreak in blueberries and caneberries and are not labeled for strawberries. Plantings put on raised beds to keep root systems out of saturated soil also give the voles a refuge from flooding. These guys carry the potential for very serious economic losses.

Chemical Control Update:

1) Strawberry herbicide: Spartan ([Oregon label](#) and [Washington label](#)) use is allowed until Feb. 28th under the Section 18 label. Be sure to check the strawberries before applying. New growth can be burned.

2) Blueberry Insecticide: Esteem can be used for scale control in blueberries. Also, although not listed on the label, Esteem will also provide some control of winter moth eggs.

3) Blueberry Fungicide: Applications have been made by both Oregon and Washington to obtain a Section 18 Emergency label for the use of **Indar** (fenbuconazole) for the control of Mummyberry.

4) Blackberry Fungicide: A Section 24C special use label is being pursued by Oregon for the use of a higher rate of **Rally** (myclobutanil) for the control of the new rust disease, *Phragmidium violaceum*, in Evergreen blackberries.

From one of our Contributors concerning Cold Hardiness: "Growers asking about ways to make their caneberries /blueberries cold hardy now should be advised **there are no proven foliar sprays at this time of year**. However, there are practices that help the previous year such as a balanced fertility program, especially potassium levels, don't apply nitrogen late in the growing season, and water the plants until fall rains start. If water is withheld, the plants may go dormant, only to begin growing again in late fall when the rains start."

Detritus removal in Blackberries: If you're a blackberry grower getting ready to use mechanical brushing to clean some of the debris from the floricanes, check the buds beforehand to make sure they aren't swelling. If buds are beginning to break damage can be done.

Insect Update:

1) Leafroller larvae: Blueberries - We're finding some larger overwintering leafroller larvae feeding on buds in blueberries. Scout for buds held tightly together with webbing.

2) Redberry mites: Blackberries - These are a major pest in Evergreen blackberries and can also be a problem in Marions. There is no treatment once the redberry symptom is found, so prevention is the only option. If you have had Redberry mite problems start your prevention program with a dormant spray of lime/sulfur or elemental sulfur shortly after budbreak.

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

4) Winter Moth Blueberries. - The above application for scale can also help prevent winter moth damage caused by their larvae feeding on buds later this spring.

Disease Update:

1) Mummyberry: Blueberries - Plan for control. This is our most economically damaging fungal disease in blueberries. For infections to take place, the green tip stage needs to be at about a quarter of an inch (5-6 mm) and the apothecia (fruiting stage of the mummyberry) needs to be releasing spores. Click on the mummyberry link above for photos and more information. Indar Emergency use labels have been applied for in both Oregon and Washington but have not yet been granted.

2) Phragmidium Rust: Evergreen Blackberries - Apply Lime Sulfur at the highest rate allowed this spring. Good coverage is essential. Check to see how well it's penetrating the 'rope' of canes tied along the wire where a lot of rust spores are hiding out. Also, remove as much of the old fruiting canes as possible to get rid of overwintering inoculum. (and hope for a drier spring than last year...).

Winter herbicides: Get these on before warm weather spurs plant growth that can lead to herbicide damage. Pre-emergents can be applied in all crops to prevent weed problems later in the spring. [Click here for herbicides](#) registered in small fruits.

Cropwork:

All Crops: 1) Can still apply lime/dolomite to raise soil pH. 2) Can apply pre-emergent herbicides.

All Caneberries: 1) Put out [mouse/vole](#) bait as needed. 2) Finish canework. 3) Weed control. 3) Scout for bud damage/feeding & determine cause.

Blackberries: (in particular Evergreens) Apply Lime Sulfur for treatment of both rust and [Redberry mite](#) at budbreak.

Blueberries: 1) Put out [mouse/vole](#) bait as needed. 2) Finish pruning. 3) Dormant oil or Esteem can be applied for scale and winter moth egg control. 4) Scout for bud damage & determine cause. 5) Scout for mummyberries.

Strawberries: Weed control.

Some Upcoming Meetings (For a more complete schedule go to the [Event Calendar](#))

February 9 —Oregon Strawberry Commission meeting ~ 11:30 am, Alessandro's 120 Commercial St., Salem, OR. For more information call the commission office 541-758-4043 or [email](#) them.

February 15th —Washington Berry Growers' Meetings in Lynden ~ Fire District #3 conference room, 307 19th Street, Lynden, WA. Contact the [Washington Red Raspberry Commission](#) office, 360-354-8767 for more information.

10:30-12:30 **Northwest Small Fruits Industry Competitiveness Forum**

1:00 **WRRC Board** meeting begins.

2:30-3:30 Dan Bernardo, The Dean of **WSU's College of Agriculture** has asked for an opportunity to meet with **berry grower** groups. His hope is that blueberry, strawberry, and cranberry growers can join raspberry growers in this discussion.

3:30-4:30 **WRRC board** meeting continues.

4:30-5:30 **Raspberry Selection Puree Evaluations and Discussion.**

February 16-18th ~ The Horticulture Growers' Short Course in Abbotsford, British Columbia. [Click here](#) for the program and registration forms.

February 28, March 1-2 —Export Seminar & Consultations ~ Seattle, WA. Seminar focuses on branding and federal assistance programs; personal consultations available. [Click here](#) (PDF file) for details and registration form.

March 3-4 —US Highbush Blueberry Council Spring Meeting ~ Crowne Plaza Seattle, 1113 6th Ave., Seattle, Washington. (206) 464-1980. For the online registration, [click here](#) --- (user name: meeting; password: meetingnabc1)

March 14 —WSU Extension Workshop for Berry Growers ~ Vancouver, WA campus of WSU. Call Dr. Lynell Tanigoshi at 306-576-6030 x 12 for details.