

Small Fruit Update



February 14, 2006

[Event Calendar](#) [Small Fruit Cold Storage Reports](#) [Weather Forecast](#) by Rufus La Lone

We've got a long, cold week ahead. Predictions of temperatures below 20°F (-7°C) in Northern Washington and at least down to the low 20's in the Willamette Valley. The probability of **cold damage** to small fruit crops across the region is very high. Check the weather forecast link above.

Blueberry Freeze Susceptibility Information: [Click here](#) for information from the North Carolina Extension. A region that has had more experience with this type of situation than we have.

Welcome to the [B.C. Blueberry Council](#) as a new sponsor for this Update. The Council also has a new research coordinator, Sonja Ring, who will be very active this year in working with growers on field issues with a particular emphasis on Scorch virus. She can be reached at 604) 613-2133 or email SonjaRing@shaw.ca.

Crop Reports:

Oregon blueberries: The southern highbush variety, O'Neal, is starting to bloom at the Aurora Experimental station, rabbiteye varieties are between bud swell and bud break, highbush varieties are in bud swell with Duke showing initial bud break.

Washington blueberries: Skagit Valley blueberries are showing flower buds, but only O'Neal and the very earliest northern highbush are showing open flowers.

British Columbia blueberries: Flower buds are now showing in early blueberry varieties. Look to be way ahead of last year.

Raspberries: Many fields and varieties have broken bud across the region. Younger fields or fields on lighter soils, as usual, are ahead of the older ones and much more vulnerable to cold damage.

Marionberries: Dormancy has been broken and buds are swelling. Susceptibility to cold damage is high.

2005 State Berry Production Statistics: [Click here](#) for USDA survey information on berry production in **Oregon and Washington** for last year. These are surveys and are only as accurate as the information that has been reported to them.

Chemical Control Update:

Canadian Blueberry Insecticide: An emergency registration is being pursued for **Fulfill (pymetrozine)** for a control for aphids before the formation of winged adults. Aphids vector **blueberry scorch virus**. Fulfill is not labelled for use in any small fruits in the U.S.

Insect Update: Click on highlighted name for in depth pest information.

1) **[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 an application of lime/sulfur or elemental sulfur shortly after budbreak.

2) **[Scale](#): Blueberries** - A dormant oil or [Esteem](#) (pyriproxyfen) can be used.

3) **[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: Click on highlighted name for in depth pest information.

1) **[Mummyberry](#): Blueberries**. Plan now for control. **Indar** emergency use labels have been applied for in both Oregon and Washington but have not yet been granted.

2) **[Bacterial Blight](#): Blueberries**. Copper applications are recommended as buds break. Some strains of the bacterium are showing evidence of resistance to copper.

3) **[Purple Blotch](#): Blackberries**. Lime Sulfur applications are usually applied in the spring although spores released from the floricanes won't infect the new primocanes until temperatures get into the 60's (16-18 C). The idea is to protect the new primocanes from infection. Any signs of floricane infection took place last year and can't be remedied at this time.

4) **Phragmidium Rust: Evergreen Blackberries** - Apply Lime Sulfur at the highest rate allowed. 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.

Vertebrate Pest Update: Caneberries and Blueberries - Voles: Zinc phosphide baits can be applied only until budbreak in blueberries and caneberries and are not labeled for strawberries.

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) Apply lime/sulfur for disease control. 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) Can apply Copper for Bacterial Blight. 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.

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 agents and industry consultants if you've got questions concerning your specific situation.

Acknowledgment

As we've expanded the area covered by this Update, we've needed to increasingly rely on information coming from extension and 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 a lot of pest lifecycle and control information, agendas, and other material in this Update and on the website (www.nwipm.info) that can only be viewed using Acrobat Reader. If you have trouble with a link (anything underlined and blue), it may be because your machine doesn't have Acrobat. You can download it for **free** at <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>. If you are not seeing any blue underlined words, your email program is not set to accept formatted messages. Check the "help" index for your program to find out how to get messages with the HTML formatting.

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

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 [Click here for the agenda](#).