

Small Fruit Update



March 28, 2006

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

Note: Beginning this week we're going to be experimenting with slightly different versions of this Update for Canada and the U.S. to more accurately reflect the control options available for the industries on both sides of the border. U.S. Trade name chemical option references will not be included in the Canadian version.

Guest Worker/Immigration Reform: [Click here](#) for an article in yesterday's Seattle Post-Intelligencer on how this issue could affect Washington State. [Click here](#) for an Oregon Association of Nurseries "state-of-the-issue" update. Even if a senator/congressman supports guest worker provisions, the email and phone logs are running very heavily against them. Get counted.

Oregon: [Ron Wyden](#), 202-224-5244, [Gordon Smith](#), 202-224-3753

Washington: [Maria Cantwell](#) 202-224-3441, [Patty Murray](#) 202-224-2621

Irrigation Course Scholarships Available: Three Washington state small fruit commissions (Raspberry, Blueberry and Strawberry) are jointly offering scholarships to improve industry expertise of irrigation usage. **Six sponsorships of up to \$1500 each are available for industry personnel to attend a three-day course** (June 12-14) at Cal State San Luis Obispo. [Click here](#) for a course description. For more information and/or an application, contact [Henry Bierlink](#) (360-354-8767) at the Raspberry Commission or [Tom Peerbolt](#) (503-289-7287).

Crop Updates:

Whatcom County raspberries: New field planting is moving along. Lime Sulfur and herbicide applications are finishing up. A lot of fertilizer is going down right now. Growth is still slow—waiting for this week's (hopefully) warmer weather.

Skagit County raspberries: Pretty much the same as Whatcom County. Raspberry primocanes are just emerging but not much progress yet as soil temps remained below 40 degrees until recently. Some Meeker that appeared to be fine after freeze are 'looking kinda' tough' coming out very slow, and also showing some burnt edges from the last frost.

Willamette Valley blackberries: Slow...Buds have broken but just not much growth yet. Lime Sulfur and herbicide applications are pretty much finished up.

Whatcom County blueberries: Mummyberry applications are just starting. A lot of growers are going on with their first round of fertilizer.

Willamette Valley blueberries: Blossoms are very sporadically showing up in some of the early varieties. Mummyberry prevention applications are going on. Fertilizer applications are going on.

New pest Information

Insects/Mites:

1) [Clay colored weevil](#): **Raspberries.** It's about time for adults of this species to start emerging in the **northern raspberry fields** where they feed on raspberry buds. While the species has been found in the south, it has not been reported at economically damaging levels.

2) [Blueberry Gall Midge](#): **Blueberries.** Dr Lynell Tanigoshi, WSU small fruit entomologist, using monitoring traps placed on the soil surface, last week recovered significant numbers of gall midge adults emerging from a field in Hillsboro, Oregon.

Ongoing Seasonal Pest Information

Insects/Mites

1) [Winter Moth](#), **Blueberries:** They're very small right now. [Click here](#) for pictures, scouting and control information.

2) [Redberry mites](#): **Blackberries** -If you have had Redberry mite problems start your prevention program with an application of lime/sulfur or elemental sulfur shortly after budbreak.

3) [Raspberry Crown Borer](#) and/or [Strawberry Crown Moth](#) **Caneberries:** Most effectively treated with an insecticide drench in early March. Be sure it gets well rained in. Guthion can still be used this year but we also have a new supplemental label for [Capture](#) (bifenthrin).

Diseases

1) **Disease Alert: Mummyberry: Blueberries.** We're just into the window of time when infections can take place. [Click here](#) for scouting and control details as well as photos.

- 2) **Cane Blight: Raspberries.** A good time to spot symptoms of cane blight is as the buds break.
- 3) **Purple Blotch: Blackberries.** Lesions are easy to see right now with no new foliage in the way.
- 4) **Phragmidium Rust: Evergreen Blackberries** - Apply Lime Sulfur at the highest rate allowed.
- 5) **Phytophthora Root Rot:** Raspberries - 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.

Cropwork:

All Crops: 1) Spring fertilizer. Many growers are applying now. 2) Weed control.

All Caneberries: 1) (Northern growing areas) Scout for Clay colored weevil. 2) Apply lime sulfur for disease control. 3) Scout for bud damage/feeding & determine cause. 4) Can apply Ridomil for root rot control in March. 5) Can apply insecticide drench for borer control.

Blackberries: 1) (in particular Evergreens) Apply lime sulfur for treatment of both rust and **Redberry mite**.

Blueberries: 1) Scout for Winter Moth feeding. 2) Scout for mummyberries/control as needed. 3) Make preparations to bring in bees around 10% bloom.

Strawberries: As plants start growing, check weak areas for root weevil larvae, strawberry crown borers or root disease problems. 2) Can apply slug bait (in the South). 3) Till row centers.

Chemical Control Update:

Fungicide, Oregon Evergreen Blackberries: A SLN (Special Local Needs) label has being issued for the use of **Rally** at a higher than presently allowed rate for the treatment of Phragmidium rust in Oregon's blackberries. [Click here](#) for the label.