

Small Fruit Update



April 4, 2006

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

Crop development remains slow with the continued below normal temperatures and above normal precipitation. A lot of **blueberries** in all regions are at pink bud stage. Some in the Willamette Valley are beginning bloom. **Strawberry** fruit spurs are starting to appear in southern fields. Also in the south, **primocane suppression** will begin this week in some of the young **raspberry** fields.

Disease Alert: Phragmidium Rust: Evergreen blackberries. Dr. Ken Johnson (OSU) has observed in the lab germination of some of the overwintering teliospores. The present 'best guess' spray timing looks to be around mid-April when there will be both enough new growth to protect and enough field germination of the overwintering spores to optimize the fungicide's effectiveness. As mentioned last week, A SLN (Special Local Needs) label has been 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. [Click here for updated information on the disease and recent fungicide trials.](#)

Wednesday and Thursday--Caneberry Crop Insurance meetings: Willamette Valley (Wednesday, April 5, North Willamette Station in Aurora) and **Southwest Washington** (Thurs, April 6, the Oak Tree Restaurant in Woodland). They'll last about 2 hours-- lunch provided. Your comments will help **decide the future of this program**. Growers meet at 10:00 am. Insurance, extension, and, FSA personnel at 1:30 pm. [Click here](#) for more information.

USDA Summary of Public Comments on 2007 Farm Bill: [Click Here](#) for the full information. [Click here](#) for the Specialty Crops section.

Oregon Department of Ag Pesticide Bulletin: [Click Here](#). Information on active Section 18 and SLN labels, pesticide license recertification classes (including online internet classes) and recently imposed civil penalties.

Safety Reminders from one of our contributors: From experience... **Label garbage drums** as TRASH or GARBAGE (or BASURA, Spanish for trash). **Label water trucks** WATER ONLY, in case there is a leak. **DO NOT** leave pesticide containers in the field.

Washington Small Fruit Commissions' Irrigation Course Scholarships Available: [Click here](#) for a course description.

New pest Information

Diseases

1) **Shock Virus, blueberries.** I'm seeing the beginnings of Shock symptoms 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 (USDA small fruit virologist) to arrange for free testing at (541) 738-4041 or [email](#) him.

2) **Yellow rust, raspberries.** The spore stage that looks like a yellow blister on the top of leaves is now starting to show up in some southern raspberry fields.

Insects/Mites

1) Weevils:

- a) **Clay colored weevil, northern raspberries.** No reports of damage yet but it's time to scout for feeding symptoms and/or go out at night and look for the adults.
- b) **Rough strawberry root weevil, strawberries.** Adults can now be found in some southern strawberry fields. Still pretty much down in the soil around the base of the plants.
- c) **Larvae** of other species such as **Black Vine** and **Strawberry weevil** are also being found in southern strawberries. So far no pupae have been found.

2) [Orange Tortrix Leafrollers](#), southern caneberries. It's time to get **pheromone traps** set out to determine the initial level of the orange Tortrix adult populations. The flight is late this year but some blackberry field counts are beginning to climb.

3) [Aphids](#), blueberries. Pre bloom aphid control could be necessary in blueberry fields infected with or in close proximity to fields infected with [Scorch virus](#).

Other Pests

[Slugs](#): strawberries.

Ongoing Seasonal Pest Information

Insects/Mites

[Winter Moth](#), blueberries: Check for dying or dead flower buds with webbing and/or a small green caterpillar inside. Treatment thresholds are not well established but 'significant' populations can impact yields by destroying enough flower buds.

Diseases

1) **Disease Alert: [Mummyberry](#): blueberries.** Spores are now being released from overwintering mummyberries. [Click here](#) for scouting and control details as well as photos.

2) [Cane Blight](#): raspberries.

3) [Purple Blotch](#): blackberries.

5) [Phytophthora Root Rot](#): raspberries, strawberries.

a) Phytophthora's are water molds with spores that can actually spread to the roots of adjacent plants by **swimming in water-saturated soil**. The longer the soil stays saturated, the more opportunity for the disease to spread.

b) If you have had a Phytophthora root rot problem or if your field tends to stay saturated, consider using a **fungicide drench**. [Ridomil Gold](#) is pretty volatile and needs to be watered in well for effectiveness. It should be applied just before or during rain—shouldn't be a problem right now.

c) The other fungicide options that can be applied as foliar sprays when enough foliage is present are **Fosphite, Aliette or equivalent products**.

d) Suggestions to **minimize root rot problems**: **1)** Plant on a well draining soil **2)** Improve drainage (tile or subsoil) **3)** Plant on raised beds. **4)** Increase soil calcium levels with gypsum, ag lime and/or dolomite. **5)** Use a more root rot tolerant variety.

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) Scout for cane diseases. 3) Scout for bud damage/feeding & determine cause. 4) Can apply Ridomil for root rot control.

Southern Raspberries: 1) Some of the young field are near the time for primocane burning.

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. 4) Scout for virus symptoms.

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

Chemical Control Update:

Insecticide: Guthion, caneberries: March 31st was the last date for Guthion sales and distribution. Existing stocks may be used until September 30, 2006. [Click here](#) for details.