

# Small Fruit Update



April 11, 2006

[Event Calendar](#)

[Small Fruit Cold Storage Reports](#)

[Weather Forecast](#) by Rufus La Lone

## **Crop Updates:**

**Oregon blackberries:** Marionberries tied up in February and some of the weaker summer trained fields are showing very poor, slow bud break due to cold damage. Some Kotata fields are also showing cold damage symptoms. In Evergreens, late this week looks to be the time for the first fungicide treatment for Phragmidium rust infections.

**Canadian raspberries:** Slow, mixed, bud break, particularly in Meekers with some winter damage showing up as dead, brown tissue in center as buds open. Malahat, Qualicum and Chemainus are slower than normal but appear to be developing more evenly along the length of the cane. Crown borer drenches are done. First fertilizer applications going on.

**Skagit County raspberries:** More cold damage on raspberries than originally thought (Mostly in Meeker). Some plants have shown only slow growth and dark brown spots now showing in the core of the buds and early laterals. Some not sending laterals at all, and instead, just pushing flower buds. Chemainus, Coho, and Cowichan, look good and have come on strong.

**Whatcom County raspberries:** Primocanes are 2-4" on new plantings should be burned back this week. Willamettes are filled out and pushing hard. Most look fine as far as winter damage is concerned. Clay colored weevil feeding just starting to show. Voles are active, and so are coyotes. Drip tape is suffering in a few places.

**Oregon/Southwest Washington raspberries:** As in the other areas, many Meeker fields are breaking bud slowly and unevenly. Some brown, dead bud centers but not a significant number. Coho and Chilliwack developing more evenly with better color. Primocane control now going on in young fields.

**Southwest Washington strawberries:** Growth has come on fast this past week. Fruit spurs and flower buds are starting to show. Good growth without much sign of winter damage. Report of seeing the first open bloom in Ridgefield.

**Canadian blueberries:** This past week first fertilizer applications have started. Impact of winter injury varies from field to field and one region of the valley to another. Both Duke and Bluecrop showing some bud damage.

**Whatcom County blueberries:** Slow development with just a few open blooms.

**Oregon blueberries:** Some fields are around 2-5% bloom.

## **Disease Alerts:**

**1) Phragmidium Rust: Evergreen blackberries:** The present 'best guess' spray timing looks to be the end of this week when there will be both enough new growth to protect and enough field germination of the overwintering spores to optimize the fungicide's effectiveness. [Click here](#) for the SLN Oregon Rally fungicide label. [Click here for updated information on the disease and recent fungicide trials.](#)

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

## **Industry Updates:**

**1) BC Blueberry Council funding an area-wide blueberry IPM project this year:** In conjunction with the **BC Investment Agriculture Foundation**, and working with **ES Cropconsult**, the Council will be putting out weekly updates on their website in a grower-only area. Indicator fields throughout the Fraser Valley will be used to collect and disseminate accurate, real-time information. For details, contact [Sonja Ring](#), BC Blueberry Council Research Coordinator at (604) 613-2133.

**2) Raspberry Selection Puree Evaluation:** Taste and evaluate the commercial potential of promising new raspberry cultivar selections from the WSU breeding program. Many of these selections have improved root rot and virus resistance. Thursday, April 20 from 10:00 am to noon, North Willamette Research and Extension Center, Aurora, Oregon. For more information, contact [Brian Yorgey](#) at OSU (541 737-6496) or [Pat Moore](#) at WSU (253 445-4525).

**3) The Washington and BC Red Raspberry Industries hire Marketing Consultant:** The WRRC along with the BC Raspberry industry have hired **Rodger Wasson** to develop a **Marketing Strategy**. Rodger has a long history of involvement with agricultural organizations across the nation and most recently headed the California Strawberry Commission. He will be meeting with both buyers and sellers of red raspberries over the next three months. Two public meetings are scheduled for growers and industry to discuss potential strategies with Rodger. They'll be in Lynden, WA at Homestead Farms Resort on April 18 at 7 pm and in Woodland, WA at the Oak Tree Restaurant on May 1 at 7 pm. Call [Henry Bierlink](#) at 360-354-8767 for more information.

## **New pest Information**

**Clay colored weevil, northern raspberries.** First reports this week of Clay Colored weevil emergence in Whatcom county raspberries. Scout for laterals that have been clipped off and/or leaf notching. A basal insecticide application is recommended if damage is significant.

**Winter Moth, blueberries:** We're picking up first to third instar winter moth in southern raspberries. They don't do economic injury in raspberries at this time but finding them indicates that if there were going to be a problem in blueberries, it would be there now. Treatment thresholds are not well established but 'significant' populations can impact yields by destroying flower buds. In northern Washington and BC, where development is behind the southern blueberries, some growers add an insecticide for winter moth with their fungicide application for Mummyberry control.

**Weevils, strawberries:** High levels of root weevil larvae are impacting some Skagit County fields. In the south, we're finding overwintering [Rough Strawberry root weevil](#) adults as well as various sizes of larvae. No signs of pupating yet. ([Black Vine root weevils](#), [Strawberry root weevils](#))

## **Ongoing Seasonal Pest Information**

### **Insects/Mites**

1) **Orange Tortrix Leafrollers, southern caneberries.**

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

### **Diseases**

1) **Shock Virus, blueberries.** Virus symptoms are now present in some 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 present in some southern raspberry fields. No reports of finding it in northern fields yet.

### **Cropwork:**

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

**All Caneberries:** 1) Scout for cane diseases. 2) Scout for bud damage/feeding & determine cause.

**Raspberries:** 1) (Northern growing areas) Scout for Clay colored weevil. 2) Control primocane growth as needed. 3) (Southern growing areas) Put out pheromone traps for Leafroller monitoring. 4) (Northern growing areas) Can put out traps for monitoring raspberry beetle.

**Evergreen Blackberries:** Apply fungicide for prevention of Phragmidium rust infections.

**Blueberries:** 1) Scout for Winter Moth feeding. 2) Scout for mummyberries/control as needed. 3) Make preparations to bring in bees around 10% bloom. Can apply Bee Scent or other attractant when weather is cool and wet. 4) Scout for virus symptoms. 5) Apply prebloom aphid control insecticide as needed. 6) Can apply fungicide for fruit mold control at 10% bloom. This can also help twig dieback from botrytis infections.

**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) Can apply foliar Fosphite, Aliette or equivalent product for root rot control. 5) Plan for fungicide application to prevent fruit mold at 10% bloom.