



March 13, 2007

[Small Fruit Cold Storage Reports](#)

[Weather Forecast](#) by Rufus La Lone

[Photo of the Week](#): Winter moth/Spain Worm Damage in Blueberries

Web link of the Week: So what is "green tip stage"? [Click here](#) for a pictorial guide put together by Michigan State University of the various stages of **blueberry growth development** along with a temperature range of how cold sensitive each stage is.

Research Update: Oregon State has recently updated two of their nutrient and fertilizer recommendations.

[Click Here](#) (16 pages) for "**Nutrient Management for Blueberries in Oregon**" (November 2006 version).

[Click Here](#) (8 pages) for the 2006 "**Caneberries Nutrient Management Guide**" (January, 2006 version).

Blueberry Fertilizer timing: We're getting close to the traditional time for applying fertilizer. Many recommendations still call for blueberries to receive their first application just before the buds break. Recent research shows the plant takes up very little nitrogen before late April. Recommended timing for split applications in the Willamette Valley is 1/3 in late April 1/3 in mid-May and 1/3 in mid-June.

New Pest Information

Diseases

1) **Pseudomonas (Bacterial Blight) blueberries:** For significant pseudomonas damage to occur in blueberries, you need to have soft new growth, freezing nighttime temperatures and the bacteria present at the time the freezes occur. As long as temperatures don't go below freezing, the risk of damage is low. It's recommended to make sure preventative control materials like copper or Serenade are applied before freezing weather is predicted.

2) **Phragmidium Rust: Evergreen Blackberries** - Lime Sulfur appears to be very effective at helping to control this disease. Applications need to go on right around or soon after bud break at the highest rate allowed.

3) **Cane Blight: Raspberries.** A good time to spot symptoms of cane blight is as the buds break. Infected canes will show either no budbreak if the cane has been girdled or one sided bud break if the infection is on one side. Scrape canes to look for rust colored streaks usually coming up from machine harvester scars. There is no treatment for cane blight, only prevention. The time to protect next year's canes from infection is immediately after harvest when fresh wounds become infected.

Ongoing Pest Information

Insects

1) **Winter moth: Blueberries.** Begin scouting for winter moth larvae as buds start breaking.

2) **Crown Borers: Caneberries.** March is the time to drench for crown borer control in caneberries.

3) **Leafroller larvae: blueberries.**

4) **Lecanium Scale: blueberries.** A dormant oil or [Esteem](#) (Pyriproxyfen) can be used while blueberries are dormant.

5) **Azalea Bark Scale, blueberries.** [Click here for information on azalea bark scale](#) and other scale species.

Diseases

1) **Disease Alert: Mummyberry in blueberries.** For mummyberry infections to occur, the overwintering mummyberries on the ground need to have sprouted their 'mushrooms' to release spores, blueberry plants within about 100 feet of the sporulating mummies need to have about a third of an inch (one centimeter) of green growth on their vegetative buds and temperatures need to be above about 45 F. (7 C.).

Mummyberries are now sprouting throughout our region and plants are moving into the green tip stage. Protective fungicides and/or other measures to control this disease will be needed over the next several weeks in fields where it is present.

- 2) Phytophthora Root Rot:** 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.
- 3) Purple Blotch** in blackberries. Check for cane lesions that are easy to see right now with no foliage in the way.

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 and determine cause. 4) Can apply lime sulfur for disease control. 5) Scout for cane disease symptoms.

Blueberries: 1) Pseudomonas prevention applications. 2) Put out [mouse/vole](#) bait as needed. 3) Finish pruning. 4) Dormant oil or Esteem can be applied for scale and winter moth egg control. 5) Scout for bud damage and determine cause. 6) Scout for mummyberries and implement control strategies as needed. 7) Make preparations to bring in bees around 10% bloom.

Strawberries: 1) Weed control. 2) As plants start growing, check weak areas for root weevil larvae, strawberry crown borers or root disease problems.

Some Upcoming Small Fruit Events ([Click here](#) for a more complete calendar)

Washington Red Raspberry Commission meeting

March 14 —1 PM, WSU Vancouver Research and Extension Unit, 1919 NE 78th Street, Vancouver, WA. Call 360-354-8767 for more information.

Oregon Blueberry Commission

March 19 —10 am. LaSells Stewart Center, OSU, Corvallis. For more information call the commission office at 503-364-2944.

Oregon State Blueberry Growers' Course

March 19-20—Corvallis, OR. [Click here](#) for complete information and online registration.

Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission meeting and budget meeting

March 20 —11:30 am, Langdon Farms Golf Club, 24377 NE Airport Rd, Aurora, OR. Call the Commission office 541-758-4043 or [email](#) them for more information.

Oregon Strawberry Commission meeting and budget meeting

April 3 —11:30 am, Roth's West, 1130 Wallace Rd NW, Salem, OR. Call the Commission office 541-758-4043 or [email](#) them for more information.

Washington Blueberry Commission meeting

April 10 —10 am. in the Chicona Room at WSU, Puyallup. Contact Dorothy Anderson by phone 360-766-6150 or [email](#).

Oregon Blueberry Commission

April 24 —Noon, West Salem Roth's IGA in Salem, OR. Doaks Ferry Room, starting with budget hearing.