



April 10, 2007

[Small Fruit Cold Storage Reports](#)

[Weather Forecast](#) by Rufus La Lone

[Photo of the Week](#): **Raspberry fruitworm monitoring trap**—now is the time to put these out in northern raspberry fields. Contact Colleen Burrows, WSU Whatcom Count Extension, at cburrows@wsu.edu for more information.

Crop Reports:

Oregon blueberries: Last week's record warmth late in the week, stimulated a lot of bloom. Some fields went from about 5% bloom to 25% in a day or two. Patriot, Earliblue, Blue Jay, Duke, Brigitta, Legacy, Blue Gold and Berkeley are all well into bloom in many valley locations. Blue Crop is close behind. The bees are flying...

Oregon/SW Washington strawberries: Growth is coming on strong with good color. Fruit trusses are emerging. Bloom is getting close. A few warm, sunny days would push it to 10% pretty quickly.

Weblink of the Week: Check out what's happening with Michigan's crops and their recent cold weather. [Click here](#) for the recent issue of the **MSU Fruit Crop Advisory Team Alert newsletter**.

Washington Red Raspberry Commission offers State Growers Discounted Weekly Report Rate: The WRRRC subscribes to the **Food Institute Report**, a valuable resource on what's happening in the food business. Normal subscription cost for an annual membership is \$725. The commission's subscription allows additional subscriptions for WA red raspberry growers at a substantially discounted rate of \$195 per farm per year. This includes a daily email update, a weekly 24-page report, and access to online resources. To participate, you'd need to send a check for \$195 to the WRRRC by April 13 (WA Red Raspberry Commission, 1796 Front Street, Lynden, WA 98264). For further information contact Henry Bierlink, the commission executive, at 360-354-8767 or email him at Henry@red-raspberry.org.

How to Reduce Bee Poisoning from Pesticides: Managing and conserving these insects is crucial to our livelihood. [Click here](#) for an excellent resource (28 page PDF file) on northwest agriculture and bees that was recently published by Pacific Northwest Extension. It includes not only honey bees but natives and bumble bees also. It also has information on the various pesticide toxicities and how best to use them to minimize their impacts on bees.

Disease Alert: [Phragmidium rust](#): Evergreen blackberries.

Some pointers on control of this disease from Dr. Ken Johnson, OSU plant pathologist:

- 1) Be sure lime sulfur has gone on recently. In late March/early April the overwintering spores are germinating whenever there's enough moisture.
- 2) However, even though the overwintering spores could be germinating, infections won't occur until leaves reach a stage of about three-quarter's expansion.
- 3) Scout for first new infection symptoms on the new leaves near the end of April and into the first week of May. If lime sulfur was applied, and the first symptoms are relatively light, then a minimal fungicide program could be sufficient (e.g., one Rally application in the middle of the May).
- 4) Scouting should continue through May and June to monitor the amount of rust that is developing.

[New Pest Information](#)

Insects

[Raspberry Beetle](#): northern raspberries. Raspberry beetles will be emerging from the soil in the next couple of weeks. Now is the time to put out the white sticky traps for monitoring for this pest (see photo of the week link above).

Diseases

[Phytophthora Root Rot](#): Washington raspberries. Now that growers are planting raspberries, sampling for phytophthora on pre-plant samples is available. This is free of charge. Samples will be collected by WSU Whatcom County Personnel in King County and north, and by Peerbolt Crop Management in the south. Contact Colleen Burrows (cburrows@wsu.edu) for more information.

Ongoing Pest Information

- 1) **Clay colored weevil:** northern raspberries.
- 2) **Winter moth:** blueberries. Some reports of winter moth hatches have been received from Whatcom County.
- 3) **Crown borers:** Caneberries.
- 4) **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) **Pseudomonas (bacterial blight),** blueberries. New, soft growth, with nights below freezing, is a high-risk time for damage. Have protective materials in place before the freezes hit.
- 2) **Mummyberry,** blueberries.
- 2) **Shock virus,** southern blueberries. 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.
- 4) **Yellow rust,** southern raspberries.

Cropwork:

All crops: 1) Apply fertilizer. 2) Weed control.

All Caneberries: 1) Apply lime sulfur for disease and red berry mite control. 2) Can apply Ridomil for root rot control. 3) (northern areas) Begin scouting for clay colored weevil. 4) Burn back primocanes.

Blueberries: 1) Pseudomonas prevention applications. 2) Scout for Winter Moth feeding. 3) Scout for mummyberries/control as needed. 4) Bring in bees around 10% bloom. Can apply Bee Scent or other attractant when weather is cool and wet. 5) Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to confirm. 6) Apply prebloom aphid control as needed. 7) Plan to apply fungicide for fruit mold control at 10% bloom. This can also help twig dieback from botrytis infections.

Strawberries: 1) Can apply foliar Fosphite, Aliette or equivalent product for root rot control. 2) Plan for fungicide application to prevent fruit mold at 10% bloom. 3) Check weak areas for root weevil larvae, strawberry crown borers or root disease problems. 4) Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to confirm.

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

Oregon Blueberry Commission Meeting & Budget Hearing

May 8 ~ Noon, Doaks Ferry Room, West Salem Roth's IGA, 1130 Wallace Rd NW, Salem, OR. Call the Commission office at 503-364-2944 for more information.

Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission Meeting & Budget Hearing

May 8 ~ 5:30 pm, Langden Farms Golf Club restaurant, Aurora, OR. Call the commission at 541-758-4043 or [E-mail](#) for more information.

Oregon Strawberry Commission Meeting & Budget Hearing

May 10 ~ 6:00 pm, Doaks Ferry Room, West Salem Roth's IGA, 1130 Wallace Rd NW, Salem, OR. Call the commission at 541-758-4043 or [E-mail](#) for more information.

Berry Health Benefits Symposium

June 11-12 ~ Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR. [Click here for details.](#)

OSU Strawberry Open House

June 13 ~ 2:00 pm at the North Willamette Research and Extension Station, 15210 NE Miley Road, Aurora, OR. Call (541) 737-5434 or email [Bernadine Strik](#) for more information.