



March 11, 2008

[Weather Forecast](#) by Rufus La Lone

[Photo of the Week](#): Taken this week--**Raspberry Crown Borers in raspberries in B.C.** We're considering whether this might be the best time for scouting for this difficult-to-find pest. (see link below for more information on this pest)

[Small Fruit Cold Storage Report](#)

[Innovation Link](#): This is an article about using robotics, GPS/GIS and other technologies for lowering labor costs/improving quality in specialty crops including berries.

**Blueberry Fertilizer timing**: Many recommendations 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. Typical 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.

#### Industry News

- **California Giant Berry Farms expands blueberry partnership in Florida**: [Click here](#) for an article in *The Produce News* about dealings in the blueberry industry.
- **Unmasking the Secret Power of Phytochemicals**: [Click here](#) for a USDA /ARS article about compounds contained in many berries that can, in test tubes, kill cells of some cancers.
- **The J. M. Smucker Company Announces Agreement to Acquire Europe's Best Frozen Fruits and Vegetables in Canada**: [Click here](#) for a Smucker's press release about their purchase of a Canadian frozen fruit and vegetable marketer.
- **Blueberry bird control meeting in Lynden, WA**: [Click here](#) for a *Bellingham Herald* report on the meeting.

#### Control option Update:

- **Nematode Control in Raspberries**: The EPA has rejected an application for an emergency use label for **Vydate** (oxamyl) for nematode control in Oregon and Washington raspberries. In view of the lack of availability of **Nemacur** (fenamiphos), this leaves the industry with no viable post-plant nematode control options at this time.
- **Resources for Bird Control in Blueberries**: The group that put together last week's bird control meeting in Lynden has also produced a draft document reviewing various bird control options along with a good list of web resources on the subject. [Click here](#) for a pdf file of the 10 page document.

#### New meeting Update

- **April 8: Honey Bee Health and other Pollinators**: Oregon State University is sponsoring a meeting to discuss the need for research on honey bee health and other pollinators at the LaSalle's Stewart Center at OSU, 11:30 - 2:00 p.m. They are urging anyone that may have an interest in bee issues be encouraged to attend. RSVP to Stella Coakley, Associate Dean at College Agriculture Science Department at [Stella.Coakley@oregonstate.edu](mailto:Stella.Coakley@oregonstate.edu) by Wednesday April 2 to confirm your attendance. Attendance and lunch are free of charge.

#### New Pest Information

##### Insects

- **Raspberry Crown Borers caneberries**: If you've had borer problems in the past, March is the time to drench for crown borer control in caneberries. (See photo link above)
- **Strawberry Crown Moth southern caneberries**: In Oregon and southwest Washington, this borer looks to do as much, if not more damage in caneberries as the Raspberry Crown borer. The treatment is the same as for RCB, a spring (or fall) insecticide drench.

##### Diseases

- **Cane blight raspberries**: A good time to spot symptoms of cane blight is as the buds break. Infected canes will show either no bud break 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.

- **Blackberry rust (Phragmidium Rust) Evergreen blackberries:** At this time, it's recommended to apply lime sulfur at the highest rate allowed to minimize the amount of inoculum that can infect the emerging new growth. Penetration and coverage are keys to optimizing efficacy of this application.

## On-going Pest Information

### Insects

- **Scale blueberries:** A dormant oil or **Esteem (Pyriproxyfen)** can be used if blueberries are still dormant.
- **Voles blueberries & caneberries:** Zinc phosphide baits can be applied **only until bud break in blueberries and caneberries** and are not labeled for strawberries.
- **Winter moth/ Bruce span worm blueberries:** There were reports of winter moth hatching in northern Washington. Begin scouting for winter moth larvae as buds start breaking.

### Diseases

**Disease Alert: Pseudomonas (Bacterial Blight) blueberries:** Environmental conditions are prime in many areas for bacterial blight damage. These are primarily plants that have broken dormancy along with night temperatures that go below freezing. Management options include various copper formulations as well as **Serenade Max**, a biological control product that also has some activity in controlling mummyberry. Control/prevention agents should be in place well before cold night temperatures happen.

**Disease Alert: Mummyberry 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 many fields are well 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.

- **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.
- **Purple Blotch blackberries:** Check for cane lesions that are easy to see right now as temperatures warm up and no foliage is in the way.

## Cropwork

### **Blueberries and caneberries**

- Scout for voles and treat as needed before budbreak.

### **Blueberries**

- Can apply mummyberry control materials and/or take other mummyberry management actions.
- Can apply bacterial blight management materials (e.g. copper, **Serenade**).
- Dormant oil and/or insecticide can be applied for scale and winter moth egg control before bud break.
- Plan fertilizer program.

### **Blackberries**

- Can scout for purple blotch lesions.
- Can apply pre-emergent herbicides.
- Can plan for insecticide drench for crown borer control.

### **Evergreen Blackberries**

- Dormant spray of lime/sulfur or elemental sulfur for blackberry rust and redberry mites.

### **Raspberries**

- Can apply pre-emergent herbicides.
- Can plan for insecticide drench for crown borer control.
- Can plan for **Ridomil** drench for phytophthora root rot control.

### **Strawberries**

- Can apply pre-emergent herbicides. Use caution if new growth is present.
- As plants start growing, check weak areas for root weevil larvae, strawberry crown borers and/or root disease problems.

## Upcoming Meetings: (Click here for an extended small fruit calendar)

- **March 12—Washington Red Raspberry Commission meeting**~ 10 am - 3 pm. Chicon Room, WSU. [Email](#) or call Henry Bierlink for more information 360-354-8767.
- **March 13 —Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission meeting** ~ 6 pm. Langdon Farms Golf Club, Aurora, OR. [Email](#) or call the commission office for more information 541-758-4043.
- **March 18 —Oregon Blueberry Commission meeting** ~ Budget Preparation - noon, West Salem Roth's IGA in Salem, OR. Doaks Ferry Room at noon. Call the Commission office for more information 503-364-2944.