

Small Fruit Update



March 26, 2008

[Weather Forecast](#) by Rufus La Lone

[Photo of the Week](#): Pseudomonas symptoms in blueberries.

[Small Fruit Cold Storage Report](#)

A very slow plant development week. Cold, wet weather continues. Some caneberry fertilizing going on. Early blooming varieties in southern blueberries have sporadic blooms. Patriots are into pink bud stage. Time to make sure the bees are ready to be moved in but don't get them in too soon or the bees will find and get used to alternate feeding sources. These weather conditions also increase the risk of infections occurring from mummyberry and pseudomonas blight in blueberries, so stay on top of prevention/management activities for those diseases.

Industry News

- **Gender differences in eating habits:** [Click here](#) for an article in *Science Daily*. According to this research, women eat more berries! No wonder they live longer...
- **Are canned & frozen fruits and vegetables sometimes better than fresh for nutrition?** [Click here](#) for the article.
- **California blueberries:** One of our contributors has heard comments from a couple of the California blueberry growers that their bloom set this year is excellent.

Publications Available

- **WSU Pest management guide for commercial small fruits (Revised, March, 2008) authors:** Art Antonelli, Lynell Tanigoshi, Tim Miller, and Catherine Daniels. [Click here](#).

Berry Innovation/Technology

- **Starfire GPS System from John Deere:** [Click here](#) for the Wikipedia entry on Starfire, with background information and good explanations. Starfire "is a wide-area differential GPS system developed by John Deere's NavCom and Precision Farming groups". This precision ag system is now in use in some berry fields in both the Willamette Valley and northern Washington.

Symposium Information

- **July 14-16, 2008: The 9th International Vaccinium Symposium** will be held at Oregon State University in Corvallis. In addition, a pre-conference tour is scheduled to tour blueberry, cranberry, and lingonberry production in the area. Although this is a scientific meeting with researchers from all over the world presenting, some industry members may wish to attend. **Early registration ends April 11.** For more information [click here](#) for the web site - Bernadine Strik and Chad Finn, co-conveners.
- **June 22-26, 2009: The 10th International Rubus and Ribes Symposium.** Zlatibor (Serbia). More information later but just a heads up that next summer, the Rubus and Ribes Symposium will be in Serbia. Right in the middle of harvest—but I guess there wouldn't be much to see of Serbian fields and production if it weren't.

On-going Pest Information

Insects

- [Raspberry Crown Borers](#) caneberries
- [Strawberry Crown Moth](#) southern caneberries
- [Winter moth/ Bruce span worm](#) blueberries
- [Redberry mites](#) blackberries

Diseases

Disease Alert: [Pseudomonas \(Bacterial Blight\)](#) blueberries: Environmental conditions are prime in many areas for bacterial blight damage.

Disease Alert: Mummyberry blueberries: 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 in raspberries.
- **Purple Blotch blackberries:** Check for cane lesions that are easy to see right now.
- **Cane blight raspberries:** 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.
- **Blackberry rust (Phragmidium Rust) Evergreen blackberries**

Cropwork

All crops

- Plan fertilizer program.
- Weed control.

Blueberries

- Can apply mummyberry control materials and/or take other mummyberry management actions.
- Can apply bacterial blight management materials (e.g. copper, [Serenade](#)).
- Scout for span worms/winter moth.
- Make preparations to bring in bees around 10% bloom.

Blackberries

- Scout for purple blotch lesions.
- Apply insecticide drench for crown borer control.

Evergreen Blackberries

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

Raspberries

- Apply insecticide drench for crown borer control.
- [Ridomil](#) drench for phytophthora root rot control.
- Scout for cane blight symptoms as buds break.

Strawberries

- 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)

- **April 8 —Oregon Strawberry Commission meeting** ~ 6 pm. Roths West, Salem, OR. [Email](#) or call the commission office for more information 541-758-4043.
- **April 8 —Honey Bee Health and other Pollinators**~11:30 - 2 p.m. LaSalle's Stewart Center at OSU. Oregon State University is sponsoring a meeting to discuss the need for research on honey bee health and other pollinators. RSVP to [Stella Coakley](#) by Wednesday April 2 to confirm your attendance. Attendance and lunch are free of charge.
- **April 10 —Washington Blueberry Commission meeting** ~ Eltopia, WA. Time to be announced. [Email](#) or call Alan Schreiber at for more information 509-266-4305.
- **April 22 —Oregon Blueberry Commission meeting** ~ Budget Hearing - noon, West Salem Roth's IGA in Salem, OR. Doaks Ferry Room at noon. Call the Commission office for more information 503-364-2944.
- **May 13 —Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission meeting** ~ 6 PM, Langdon Farms Golf Club, Aurora, OR . [Email](#) or call the commission office for more information 541-758-4043.
- **June 5 — Washington Blueberry Commission meeting** ~ Teleconference. Time to be announced. [Email](#) or call Alan Schreiber for more information 509-266-4305 for more.
- **June 11 —OSU Strawberry Open House** ~ starting at 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.
- **July 2 —OSU Caneberry Open House** ~ starting at 1:00 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.