



March 4, 2008

[Weather Forecast](#) by Rufus La Lone

[Photo of the Week](#): Sprouting mummyberries.

[Small Fruit Cold Storage Report](#)

Blueberry fields throughout the region are 7-10 days ahead of last year in plant development. Our plants are waking up...

Correction: Last week's Update hot links for '**Mummyberry**' and the '**Voies**' didn't work. They have now been corrected. Our apologies.

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: 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.

Mummyberry management options:

Fungicide options (U.S.):

- 1) (U.S.) Three fungicides that have shown excellent disease control now have full labels: [Pristine](#) (Pyraclostrobin & Boscalid), [Orbit](#) (Propiconazole), and a supplemental label for [Indar](#) (Fenbuconazole).
- 2) (U.S.) Fungicide that has shown moderate control and has an organically approved formulation: **Serenade** (*Bacillus subtilis*). [Click here for the Serenade Max label.](#)
- 3) (Canada) Fungicides registered for mummyberry control in Canada include **Funginex, Topas** and **Mission**.

Other mummyberry management strategies:

- 1) Destroy developing apothecia (spore cups) by disrupting the soil under the plants and in alleyways by raking, mulching, or cultivating.
- 2) Burn the developing spore cups with a lime sulfur spray. Repeat as many times as necessary as new spore cups emerge.
- 3) Some growers apply the powdered formulation of urea fertilizer to burn the apothecia, while others flame the ground underneath the blueberry plants for the same purpose.

New Pest Information

Insects

- 1) [Winter moth/ Bruce span worm](#) blueberries: There are two reports of a sporadic winter moth hatch in northern Washington. 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.

Diseases

- 1) [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.

2) **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.

On-going Pest Information

1) **Scale blueberries:** A dormant oil or **Esteem (Pyriproxyfen)** can be used while blueberries are dormant.

2) **Voles blueberries & caneberries:** Zinc phosphide baits can be applied **only until budbreak in blueberries and caneberries** and are not labeled for strawberries.

3) **Leafroller larvae blueberries:** This is a minor pest at this time of year but has on occasion been reported to cause economic damage. Scout for buds held tightly together with webbing.

Cropwork

Blueberries and caneberries

- Scout for voles and treat as needed.

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 bud damage & determine cause.
- Dormant oil and/or insecticide can be applied for scale and winter moth egg control.
- Plan fertilizer program.

Blackberries

- Can scout for purple blotch lesions.
- Don't begin training down Marionberries until after threat of damaging cold weather is passed.
- 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 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 10-12—Food Product Development Short Course**~ Food Innovation Center, Portland, organized by the OSU Dept. of Food Science & Technology. [Click here for information](#).
- **March 12—Washington Red Raspberry Commission meeting**~ 10 am - 3 pm. Chicona 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.
- **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 10 —Washington Blueberry Commission meeting**~ Pasco, 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.