



February 3, 2009

[You Tube link of the week](#): A U-pick blueberry farm in Louisiana.

[Photos of the week](#): 1) Frost/ice on opening Legacy blueberry buds. 2) A newly identified blueberry disease-“Funky Spot” to watch for in Legacy and rabbiteyes this coming season (see “Funky Spot” below for more details).

[The Weather Cafe](#) by Rufus La Lone

[Small Fruit Cold Storage Report](#)

Industry News

- **Hazardous peanut butters:** [Click here](#) (*New York Times*, 1/29/09). An editorial on the shape of the U.S. food safety programs. Stricter standards and stronger enforcement are the ongoing trends. This can be viewed as both opportunity for strengthening our market advantages as well as adding more cost and paperwork to our way of doing business.
- **California produce companies trim their workforces:** [Click here](#) (*ThePacker.com*, 1/29/09). This is mostly about vegetables but certainly reflects industry trends in fruits also.
- **A low-tech treatment for bee plague:** [Click here](#) (*New York Times*, 1/29/09). A column on the continuing crisis of honey bee colony collapse and the role of alternative pollinators.
- **USDA to retain fruit and vegetable program:** [Click here](#) (*McClatchy*, 1/27/09). Could be an encouraging sign for fruit and vegetable crop support in the new administration.
- **California farmers warned of water scarcity:** [Click here](#) (*Ventura County Star*, 1/23/09). Strawberries are a thirsty crop.
- **FDA proposes third-party certification plan:** [Click here](#) (*ThePacker.com*, 1/23/09).

New Pest Information

- **“Funky Spot”, A New Blueberry Disease in the Southeastern U.S.**
(Comments from Dr. R. Martin, USDA small fruit virologist)
 - Necrotic rings on upper and lower surface of leaves.
 - Symptoms primarily in southern highbush cultivar ‘Star’ but also in ‘Legacy’ and several rabbiteye cultivars.
 - No fungal structures observed in affected leaves and not able to isolate fungi from leaves.
 - Double stranded RNA was isolated from symptomatic leaves suggesting a virus.
 - Disease can progress to complete defoliation.
 - Symptoms observed in North and South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi and Arkansas and it spreads quickly.
 - Causal agent, vector, host range, favorable environmental conditions and control measures are all unknown at this time.
 - The symptoms [shown](#) are in the cultivar ‘Star’, which has the most dramatic symptoms. In other cultivars symptoms are less dramatic.
 - If you see these symptoms in your field, please contact Bob Martin at the USDA-ARS Horticulture Crops Research Laboratory (541)-738-4041– it will make his day.
 - This disease appears pretty nasty; so, we want to find it as soon as possible.
- **Starling biology and control:** [Click here](#). As the author says, this information isn't "for the faint of heart". It addresses "the devastation that's been left in the wake of European Starlings". When speaking of bird control in blueberries, the species needing to be controlled makes a big difference. Starlings are not a native species and have a much greater potential for crop damage and high control costs.

Ongoing Pest Information

- **[Pseudomonas \(Bacterial Blight\)](#) blueberries:** Water-soaked lesions usually appear at this time of year on canes in some fields that then develop into reddish brown to black cankers.
- **Voles:** A high level of vole activity is apparent in some blueberry and caneberry fields. [Click here](#) for some background and biology information on voles (or meadow mice). [Click here](#) for information on how to construct bait stations.

- **Phytophthora root rot, Washington raspberries:** The *Phytophthora rubi* survey is being funded through the end of June 2009. Pre-plant samples (boxed plants or roots) and in-field samples can be taken and analyzed for the presence of *Phytophthora rubi* at no charge until that point. If you are interested in having samples analyzed, please contact [Colleen Burrows](#), (360) 676-6736 for Northern Washington, or [Tom Peerbolt](#) for Southern Washington. More information can be found at: <http://whatcom.wsu.edu/ag/IPM/phytophthora.htm>.

New meeting information

- **February 17— Oregon Strawberry Commission annual meeting**~ North Willamette Research and Extension Center. Aurora, OR. Call 541-758-4043 or email [Philip Gütt](#) for more information.
- **February 19-21— 11th Annual Pacific Agriculture Trade Show**~ Tradex Exhibition Center (Abbotsford, B.C. airport). Blueberry session Feb. 21st. Sponsored by B.C. Innovation Council. [Click here](#) for official website.
- **February 25th— 4th Annual Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission's Grower Workshop** ~ 8:30 am-3:30 pm at the North Willamette Research and Extension Center.
 - **Agenda includes:** Assessing Winter Damage, Changes in Pesticide Labeling, Update on OSU Extension and Research Activities, The ODA's Marionberry/Blackberry Certification Program, and Sprayer Technology.
 - While there is **no charge**, food and space are limited; so, please let us know by February 20th if you're planning to attend. Call (503-289-7287) or email [Beth Robinson](#) at the Peerbolt Crop Management office.
 - One Oregon pesticide license credit.
- **March 11--- Washington Red Raspberry Commission meeting**~ Lynden, WA. For information call Henry Bierlink at 360-354-8767 or [email](#) him.

Other [Upcoming Meetings](#): A calendar of other small fruit related meetings and events.

Cropwork

All Crops

- Scout for voles and treat as needed.

Blueberries

- Finish pruning- apply Bordeaux after pruning.
- Scout for bud damage & determine cause.
- Dormant oil can be applied for scale and winter moth egg control.
- Can apply Casoron (dichlobenil) or Chateau for weed control.

Blackberries

- Mechanically "brush" canes to remove detritus that could become harvest contaminants. Wait for dry, sunny conditions.
- Don't begin training down Marionberries until after threat of damaging cold weather is passed.
- Can apply Casoron (dichlobenil) for weed control. Especially good on quackgrass.

Evergreen Blackberries

- Can apply a dormant spray of lime/sulfur or elemental sulfur in mid-February for Redberry mites.

Raspberries

- Can apply Casoron (dichlobenil) for weed control. Especially good on quackgrass.

Strawberries

- Can apply pre-emergent herbicides. One choice--Spartan (sulfentrazone) until February 28. It's off label after that date.