



April 14, 2009

[You Tube links of the week:](#) Gaskains Farm, Kent, Great Britain. This is a recruitment video for Eastern European workers. Take a look at their raspberry and strawberry growing techniques.

[Photos of the week:](#) Blueberry bud damage seen this week: Left-cold damage; Right-Pseudomonas syringae (bacterial blight)

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

[Small Fruit Cold Storage Report](#)

[Upcoming Meetings](#)

Industry Comments sought on the proposal to establish a U.S. National Processed Red Raspberry Council

- In response to the volatility of the processed red raspberry market in recent years and the trending of imported fruit to gain an increasing share of the domestic market, the Washington Red Raspberry Commission has been putting considerable resources into working with the USDA to establish a means of assessing all processed raspberries sold in the U.S.
- The funds from this assessment would be used to increase demand for processed red raspberries in the U.S. through a better funded, more coordinated marketing effort.
- The process to establish this USDA authorized council, which would function for the U.S. processed red raspberry industry in the same way the US High Bush Blueberry Council functions for the blueberry industry, has made it through the USDA bureaucracy and is moving toward implementation.
- It's now the time for any industry comments, pro and con, to be submitted to the USDA. Growers are urged to provide comments in the proposal before a June 8th deadline.
- The Washington Red Raspberry Commission will soon be providing guidelines on how to submit comments.
- For the proposed order, [click here](#) (PDF file, 25 pages).
- For the referendum procedures, [click here](#) (PDF file, 5 pages).
- Pending a positive review of comments, the USDA will schedule a grower referendum to take place by this fall.
- On this schedule, the Council could be established as early as the end of the year.
- For more information, contact the Commission's office at 360-354-8767 or to send an email, [click here](#).

Disease Alert: Mummyberry Yes—for a few more weeks-- unprotected new growth, the mummies on the ground releasing spores and 'warmish', wet weather mean Mummyberry infections. If you've seen this disease in your area, now is the time to put consistent and persistent efforts into breaking the disease cycle and preventing new infections.

Comparisons of crop Development from the last couple of years:

In terms of degree days and plant development, we're running close to where we were in last year's very late year.

- **April 10, 2007:** *(This is from 2007 Update)* **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."
- **April 14, 2008:** **Oregon blueberries:** *(This is from 2008 Update)* Some of the early blooming varieties like Earliblue, Legacy, Patriot and Brigitta are showing some bloom in the Willamette Valley and SW Washington with hives in a few fields. We even have some bumble bees starting to fly. No bloom is reported in the other regions.
- **April 14, 2009:** **Oregon blueberries:** Very close to the 2008 statement.

Regional reports

These reports are from individuals within the region and are their particular observations. They are included to give an impression of the present 'state of the industry' and regional activities.

- **Skagit County, Northern Washington** (4/10/09) Finished cutting down width of the matted rows in strawberries today, still some rotovating of the areas between the rows remains to be done. Almost finished up with herbicides and the first round of fertilizer on blueberries. Lime sulfur is finished on the raspberries except for organics.
- **Skagit County, Northern Washington** (4/10/09) All the usual stuff. Plows plowing, disc's disking, mulchers mulching, spreaders spreading and sprayers spraying. Good to see after all this time!!
 - **Blueberries** are really starting to pop. I thought we had several weeks before bloom spray, but we'll be lucky to get ten days. Pink showing in Reka and Earliblue, with Duke close on their heels.
 - **Raspberries** are pushing hard as well. Bud growth in all fields now.
 - **Strawberries**, at least many fields, showing signs of herbicide and cold stress. I still think they will pop out of it, but the stress is evident, even from a windshield.
- **Whatcom County, Northern Washington** (4/10/09) If it was any slower, we would be going backwards. First applications of fertilizer are now winding down on blues and raspberries. Mummyberry sprays are on most of the blueberries. Strawberries are still very slow, we're cutting down width of the matted rows right now.
- **Northern Willamette Valley, Oregon** (4/13/09) There's a lot of variation between regions in the valley that seems pretty much related to degree days. Everything continues to be late but some of the warmer valley areas are starting to push blueberry bloom and caneberry growth significantly more than colder spots. Strawberry trusses are coming along now but it looks likely that the strawberry crop will be at least a couple of weeks late. Usually that means a short bloom and a quick harvest with undersized fruit. Need to get that warm weather—just not too warm.

Industry news

- **California crops threatened by voracious moth:** [Click here](#) (4/8/09, Merced Sun-Star, Central California)
- **Washington produce growers wary of cool spring:** [Click here](#) (4/6/09, Yakima Herald-Republic)
- **Weak crop prices end feast in farm states:** [Click here](#) (4/9/09, Associated Press)
- **Editorial: Food scares have people looking closer to home:** [Click here](#) (4/7/09, Marin Independent Journal, Northern California)
- **CDC: U.S. Food Poisoning cases held steady in 2008:** [Click here](#) (4/10/09, Associated Press) Despite high profile cases, the statistics don't show any changes in actual cases.
- **Overhaul of federal food safety system pushed by Conn. Lawmaker:** [Click here](#) (4/10/09, The Hartford Courant, Connecticut)
- **The evolution of antioxidants:** [Click here](#) (Nutraceuticals World) An in-depth article on the status of antioxidant research and the marketing of the various fruits high in antioxidants.

Ongoing Pest Information

Diseases

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

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

- Be sure lime sulfur has gone on recently. In early-mid April the overwintering spores are germinating whenever there's enough moisture.
- Even though the overwintering spores could be germinating, infections won't occur until leaves reach a stage of about three-quarter's expansion.
- The first new infection symptoms on the new leaves will be visible by 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).
- Scouting should continue through May and June to monitor the amount of rust that is developing.

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

- **[Phytophthora Root Rot](#) raspberries:** Time to use a fungicide drench in raspberries.
- **[Purple Blotch](#) blackberries:** The lesions are easily visible and growers can assess the level of infection.
- **[Blackberry Rust](#) (Phragmidium Rust) evergreen blackberries**
- **[Cane Blight](#) raspberries:** A good time to spot symptoms of Cane Blight is as the buds break.

Insects

Insect Alert: [Winter Moth/ Bruce Spanworm](#) blueberries: Begin scouting for Winter Moth larvae as buds start breaking.

- **[Raspberry Crown Borers](#) caneberrries:** March is the time to drench for crown borer control in caneberrries.
- **[Strawberry Crown Moth](#) southern caneberrries:** The treatment is the same as for RCB.
- **[Clay Colored Weevil](#) northern raspberries.**
- **[Redberry Mite](#) evergreen blackberries.**

Other

- **[Voles](#):** Zinc phosphide baits can be applied only until budbreak in caneberrries and blueberries.

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

- 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.