



April 7, 2009

You Tube links of the week: [Click here](#). A three-minute clip from "The Mighty Humble Blueberry", a documentary on the beginnings of an industry less than 100 years ago...and where the blueberry industry is now.

Promoting blueberries in India. [Click here](#).

[Photos of the week:](#) Winter Moth damage in blueberries.

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

[Small Fruit Cold Storage Report](#)

[Upcoming Meetings](#)

Assessing Frost Freeze Damage to Blueberries: [Click here](#). This is on the Michigan State site and gives great illustrations of various frost damage symptoms.

Disease Alert: Mummyberry: Many fields in all areas are very susceptible to infection at this time. We've had a string of warm, sunny days that have brought out unprotected new growth, the mummies on the ground are releasing spores and now we've got wet weather returning. If you've seen this disease in your area, now is the time to put major efforts into preventing infections this year!

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.

- **Fraser valley, British Columbia:** (4/6/09) Finally, some warm conditions, at least for the short term. By Wednesday/ Thursday we should see some leaves on raspberries and some early budburst on blues. It's all been painfully slow. Some raspberry fertilization has started but really nothing on blues. Second round of Mummyberry sprays going on later this week and shoot burns on raspberries could start late week towards the weekend although at present there is not a lot to shoot at. We are really looking for the soil to warm up and stay warm, even if the sun disappears, as it is forecast to do by Friday. We have to get these plants growing on a steady basis soon!
- **Skagit County, Northern Washington:** (4/2/09) Things are **very** wet. Blueberry buds continue to move (albeit at a slow pace). It is time to begin a second fungicide application (inclusive of Mummyberry control) and also to begin dry fertilizer application. Can't do both at once, so we are all hoping for better weather. The prospect of low blueberry field price is making it tougher to be really excited about working day and night to beat the weather. Even if it *is* important!
- **Whatcom County, Northern Washington:** (4/2/09) Rained all last night, two inches plus the last 2-3 days; we need a couple days for drainage. Expect to start Mummyberry sprays on blues next week. Continue lime sulfur on raspberries, and planting new fields. Strawberries not growing much yet. Probably begin fertilizer applications also. Should be a lot of wheels turning next week.
(4/6/09) Update: Mummyberry sprays in the blues going on now where the ground is firm enough.
- **Northern Willamette Valley, Oregon:** (4/7/09) First blueberry blooms are starting to open. We've had three straight days at 70 degrees or above and we've gotten a nice growth spurt. Even the strawberries are waking up. Now it's time for change—cooler, cloudy and wetter on the way. Almost seemed liked spring.

Industry news

- **Blueberry Council seeks assessment increase:** [Click here](#) (4/7/09 Fruitgrowernews.com)
- **Blueberry growers face tough season:** [Click here](#) (4/4/09, WZZM 13 Online, Western Michigan)
- **Best blueberry products of 2008:** [Click here](#) Contest winners from the US Highbush Blueberry Council.
- **California Giant rolls out recyclable pallets:** [Click here](#) (3/19/09, fruitnet.com)
- **Marshmallow farming at Spooner Farms:** [Click here](#) for video (4/1/09, King5.com)

- **Driscoll's food safety video:** [Click here](#) Now this is the way to use food safety/certification for enhancing your image and marketing your berries.
- **Farmers fear new food regulations:** [Click here](#) (4/2/09 Times Herald-Record, New York state)

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.**
- **[Scale](#) blueberries:** A dormant oil or [Esteem](#) (Pyriproxyfen) can be used while blueberries are dormant.

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

- 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.