

Small Fruit Update



News and opinions from [Peerbolt Crop Management](#) and [BerriesNW](#) sent out weekly during the growing season, and sporadically when we have something to share in the off season.

March 29, 2011

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Featured links:

From the FDA, “ [Food Defense Mitigation Strategies Database \(MSD\)](#) “This resource is designed for companies that produce, process, store, package, distribute, or transport food or food ingredients” The MSD can be accessed via www.FDA.gov/FoodDefense. A conference call will be held on Monday, April 4 at 2 p.m. EST. To sign up or give comments, go to: FoodDefense@fda.hhs.gov.
[Website](#): California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) has launched a trial pesticide air monitoring network. As California goes...so goes the Northwest?
[The Weather Cafe](#) by Rufus La Lone
[Small Fruit Cold Storage Report](#)

Disease Alert-Blueberries

Mummyberry

- The overwintering ‘mummyberries’ on the ground are now shooting up their tan colored mushrooms & releasing spores.
- Most fields are at or beyond green tip stage when those buds are susceptible to infection.
- We have periods when those buds are continually wet for the 12 hours or more required for infection.
- Our temperatures are often in, or close to, the optimal range for infections to take place (50-57°F / 10-14°C).

Fields at risk should have a protective fungicide in place on the susceptible tissue at this time to minimize infection.

- Fungicide applications made after initial infections have taken place will have no effect on these infections.
- This early critical disease management window is often missed, particularly in wet years like this when it is often difficult to get into the field.
- [Click here](#) for a pictorial guide put together by Michigan State University of the various stages of blueberry growth development. Fields are at risk of Mummyberry infections at ‘green tip stage’.
- [Click here](#) for a Mummyberry fact sheet from MSU.

Disseminating information for:

Washington

[Washington Red Raspberry Commission](#)
[Washington Blueberry Commission](#)
[Washington Strawberry Commission](#)

Oregon

[Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission](#)
[Oregon Blueberry Commission](#)
[Oregon Strawberry Commission](#)

British Columbia

[Fraser Valley Strawberry Growers Association](#)
[Raspberry Industry Development Council](#)
[B.C. Blueberry Council](#)

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.

British Columbia, Fraser Valley

- **Blueberries:** (Monday, 3/28) Lots of mummyberry spraying has gone on the last 5-7 days as well as some general cane canker fungicide protection. We had a couple of days where daytime temps got up to 15-18 C (55-62 F) which really started to warm-up upper soil layers giving the plants a kick. Also gave weeds a kick almost overnight. I've noticed some weevil feeding on buds and bark of baby blueberry plantings already.
- **Raspberries:** (Monday, 3/28) The Meekers are slowly expanding lateral buds, but the emphasis is on slow. Chemainus are greening up a lot more quickly. Baby fields are starting to move quickly now. Getting some crown borer sprays on. Watching for clay coloured weevil activity to start.

Northern Washington, Whatcom & Skagit Counties

- **Blueberries, Strawberries & Raspberries:** (Thursday, 3/24) Finishing lime sulfur and cultivating raspberries, bud break looking good so far. Blueberry ground still a bit soft and wet, but it's time for Mummyberry sprays. Mice, mice, mice. Strawberries slow coming out of the winter.
- **Raspberries:** (Monday, 3/28) Raspberry buds are just emerging in Skagit county. At the WSU Mt. Vernon Research Center, Cascade Bounty and Chemainus look pretty good, Malahat looks somewhat slow, and Meeker looks very slow and erratic. We're seeing limited budbreak, even though the first primocanes are 1-2" high. By contrast, fields I've seen in Lynden have much more even budbreak, even though they have little to no primocane emergence and they haven't had as many heat units (Mount Vernon's had 77 base 45 growing degree days, and Lynden's had 55 this season). I think that cold injury has shut some canes down and is slowing budbreak on others, but not sure how much effect it will have in the long run.

Willamette Valley, Oregon and SW Washington

- **Blueberries:** (Thursday, 3/24) Growth is coming on now with blueberries well into green tip stage and very occasional bloom here and there. A few warm days would be good to concentrate the first bloom but the next ten days look pretty consistent—lows in the low forties, highs in the mid fifties with showers/rain. We could just start limping into the bloom. Looks like a great year for Mummyberry.
- **Caneberries:** (Thursday, 3/24) Still wait and see on caneberries. Certain fields are definitely damaged. How much is keeping a lot of coffee shop conversations going.
- **Strawberries:** (Thursday, 3/24) Some new growth is coming but darn slow. Could be some root rot/cold damage out there but it could also just be the slow start. We'll know soon enough. We'll be getting some phosphite applications going as soon as there's some reasonable growth to absorb it.

Food Safety Resources

- [Six sure ways to blow a food safety audit](#) (3/23, The Grower)
- [Good Agricultural Practices \(GAP\) for Food Safety in Blueberry Production: Basic Principles](#) (MSU, pdf download, 69 pages)

Industry News/Resources

Newsletters/Blogs

- [British Columbia Berry Grower Magazine](#) (Spring, 2011) Some of the subjects:
 - "Air-blown harvester for raspberries in Chile looks promising for B.C. growers"
 - "Industry rebound expected this year"
 - Articles on starling management & Godronia Canker in blueberries.
 - Also--Nice profile of Krause Berry Farms
- ['The Source'](#) (3/28) Market updates from *The Produce News*.
- [U.C. Strawberry & Caneberry Blog by Mark Bolda](#): (3/23 entry): The Use of Rimon (novaluron) for early season management of Lygus bugs in strawberries

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West

- [App links strawberry brand, growers, discount offers](#) (3/25, the Packer)
- [Video](#): Oregon Representative, Greg Walden, speaking out against the EPA's recently proposed ag buffer zone rules for compliance with the Endangered Species Act. (YouTube, 2/11/11).
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National

- [Blueberries—Florida growers mull ways to boost business](#) (3/24, The Grower)
- (North Carolina, blueberries) [Frigid temps have farmers on guard to protect crops](#) (3/28, StarNews Online)
- [Blueberry referendum scheduled this summer](#) (3/25, Southeast Farm Press)

International

- [Frozen raspberry stocks near record levels in Serbia](#) (3/28, Fruit-inform)
- (Argentina) [Difficult situation for blueberry producers](#) (3/17, FreshPlaza.com)
- [Berries to go global](#) (3/25, The Packer)

Pest Alerts

Diseases

- **Risk is High:** [Pseudomonas \(Bacterial Blight\)](#) blueberries- **Recommended management:** To prevent future lesions from forming, copper sprays are recommended. Once night temperatures are consistently above the mid thirties (F), the risk of new damage is minimal.
- **Risk is High:** [Mummyberry](#) blueberries See [alert](#) at the top of the newsletter.
- **Risk higher than normal:** [Phytophthora Root Rot](#) raspberries: *Warming, saturated soils favor Phytophthora spread & infections* March is the time to use a fungicide drench in raspberries. Warm, saturated soils are the conditions that favor this organism, allowing it to spread quickly.
- **Risk higher than normal:** [Blackberry Rust \(Phragmidium Rust\)](#) **Evergreen blackberries:** *Warming temperatures & long periods of leaf wetness favor Phragmidium rust infections.* **From the [OSU Plant Disease Manual online](#):** "Wet conditions (> 6 hours of leaf wetness) with mean daily temperatures between 49 and 64°F favor disease development. Spores are easily spread by the wind; young leaves at 3/4 expansion are most susceptible to infection." Dormant spray of lime/sulfur or elemental sulfur for Blackberry Rust and Redberry Mites is recommended in March to prevent later problems.

Insects/Mites

- **Prime Time to Scout for:** [Winter Moth/Bruce Span Worm](#) blueberries: Scouting for Winter Moth larvae should start as soon as the buds start swelling. This is more of an ongoing issue in the northern growing regions, but it's also an occasional, locally severe problem in some Oregon and SW Washington fields.
- **Prime Time to Scout for:** [Clay Colored Weevils](#) northern raspberries: This early emerging species is considered a pest of raspberries in northern growing areas where it feeds on newly emerging shoots and buds.

Vertebrates

- **Voles, all berries:** ***Zinc Phosphide baits can only be used up to budbreak.*** [Click here](#) for some background and biology information on voles (or meadow mice). [Click here](#) for information on how to construct bait stations.

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Additional, Ongoing Pest Management & IPM Information

Diseases

- [Purple Blotch](#) blackberries: Check for cane lesions that are easy to see as the weather warms but the foliage has not yet emerged. It's a good time to assess disease level.

Insects/Mites

- **[Lecanium Scale](#) blueberries:** A dormant oil or Esteem (pyriproxyfen) can be used while blueberries are dormant.
- **[Raspberry Crown Borer](#) caneberries:** If you've had borer problems in the past, March is the time to drench for crown borer control in caneberries.
- **[Strawberry Crown Moth](#) southern caneberries:** In Oregon and Southwest Washington, this borer looks to do as much, if not more, damage in caneberries as the Raspberry Crown Borer. The treatment is the same as for RCB- a spring (or fall) insecticide drench.
- **[Redberry Mite](#) evergreen blackberries:** Dormant sprays of lime/sulfur or elemental sulfur for Blackberry Rust and Redberry Mite are recommended in March.

Meeting Information

For more comprehensive meeting schedule, [click here](#).

- **April 1 — Ecological Raspberry Production Systems (ECORAZ)** ~ 8:30am-3:30pm. WSU-Mount Vernon Northwestern Washington Research and Extension Center. An educational symposium exploring productivity, soil health, water and nutrient management. Lunch provided. [Click here](#) for details or contact [Colleen Burrows](#) for more information.
- **April 4 — Oregon Strawberry Commission Annual Strawberry Growers Meeting** ~ 8:30am to 2:30pm. North Willamette Research Station, Aurora, OR. Hear reports on strawberry research and education. Lunch provided to those that RSVP by March 31. Call 541-758-4043 or email [Rachel Denué](#) for details or to RSVP.
- **April 12 — Washington Blueberry Commission meeting** ~ Regular commission meeting to be held in Eastern WA. Location TBA. Contact [Alan Schreiber](#) 509-266-4300 for more information.
- **April 13 — Washington Red Raspberry Commission meeting** ~ Puyallup, WA. Contact [Henry Bierlink](#) or call 360-354-8767 for more information.
- **April 19-20 — Soil & Water Conservation Society “Protecting Natural Resources with Conservation Buffers” Workshop** ~ Portland, OR. [Click here](#) for details. Portland, OR. Someone from EPA will be giving the keynote address. This conference will address many of the issues that are at the center of ongoing legal efforts to limit the use of many pesticides.
- **April 26 — Oregon Blueberry Commission meeting** ~ Noon. Santiam Room, West Salem Roth's IGA in Salem. Call (503) 364-2944 for more information.

Crop work

All crops

- Scout for voles and treat as needed.
- Weed management.
- Plan fertilizer program.
- Can put out monitoring traps for Spotted Wing Drosophila.

Blueberries

- Weed management note: [Callisto \(mesotrione\)](#) can only be used before bloom.
 - [Click here](#) for information from OSU on the new herbicide options in blueberries.
- Scout for Winter Moth/Spanworm and treat as needed.
- Can apply Bacterial Blight (*Pseudomonas*) management materials.
- Scout for sprouting Mummyberries and treat as needed.
- Scout for leafroller larvae feeding.
- Plan for pre-bloom aphid control where scorch virus transmission is an issue.
- Make preparations for bringing in bees around 10% bloom.

Blackberries

- Scout for Purple Blotch lesions in Marion berries to assess field disease levels for later treatments.
- Can apply lime sulfur for Redberry Mites and/or disease management.
- Can drench for crown borer management.

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Evergreen Blackberries

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

Raspberries

- Burn back primocanes as needed.
- Scout for Clay Colored Weevil feeding and treat as needed.
- (northern areas) Scout for Clay Colored Weevil feeding and treat as needed.
- Can apply Ridomil for Phytophthora root rot management.
- Can drench for crown borer management.
- Scout for Cane Blight and Cane Botrytis symptoms.

Strawberries

- As plants start to grow, watch for weak growing areas and check plants for weevil larvae, root rot and/or cold damage.

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Archived Small Fruit Updates

(For older Updates [click here](#).)

[03-23-11](#)

[03-15-11](#)

[03-08-11](#)