

Small Fruit Update



Providing Northwest berry growers with the information they need when they need it.

The Small Fruit Update is sent out weekly during the growing season by [Peerbolt Crop Management](#) and is funded entirely by the Northwest berry growers & industry through their commissions & councils.

April 4, 2012

Table of Contents

- [Disease Alert](#)
- [Regional Reports](#)
- [Materials Update](#)
- [Pest Alerts](#)
- [Ongoing Pest Management](#)
- [Industry News](#)
- [Event Calendar](#)
- [Nutrient Management](#)
- [Crop Work](#)

- **Updated Michigan State Blueberry Website goes Live:** [Click here](#)
- **Blackberry Crops Have Expanded Worldwide** (April, 2012; Fruit Grower News) [Click here](#)
- **Chile: Fresh & Frozen Berries Market Report for US, EU, & Asia** (4/2, FreshPlaza) [Click here](#)

[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 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 infections.

- Fungicide applications made after initial infections have taken place will have no effect on those infections.
- This early critical disease management window is often missed, particularly in wet years like this when it is difficult to get into the field.
- [Mummyberry primer 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](#)

National

[North American 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, raspberries:** (Monday, 4/2) Still pretty wet out there. But we are getting into the second round of mummyberry sprays when possible. Pre-emerge herbicide work going on in both blues and raspberries. Crown borer sprays going on in raspberries. Very little fertilizing yet but that should start in a week or so. And coming up with the warm weather a weekend ago, the first of the clay-coloured weevils made an appearance in some baby blueberry fields. Chewing on buds and tender canes. Be on the lookout for more activity in blues and raspberries.

Northern Washington, Whatcom County

- **Raspberries, blueberries, strawberries:** (Thursday, 3/29) Counting Sunday, that make one nice day this spring so far. Windy and rainy again this week. We did manage to plant a few acres of raspberries, and the lime sulfur is almost done. Fertilizer going on here and there. Some folks got some mummyberry spray on the blues, and lots of herbicide work. Most strawberries not renovated yet. Still to come: raspberries- shoot burning and fertilizer; blues- more mummyberry sprays, fertilizer, vole control; strawberries- everything.

Willamette Valley, Oregon and SW Washington

- **Blackberries:** (Monday, 4/2) Nice day to get out today, pickup showed 63 degrees, sun was even shining. Some guys have fertilized and others are thinking about it. Not sure if it was best to get it on before all the rain (might have washed away) or after when it will stay put. Of course you can never have perfect timing. This year if you wait for good weather it may not get on. Sulfur sprays should be on the early blacks, some sulfur going on evergreens today. Blackberries continue to look good.



Marionberry progress April 2, 2012 photo by Bill Dinger

[Click here](#) to go back to the top of this newsletter.

Pest Management Materials Update

- [Fungicide Update for Blueberries](#) (3/27, Michigan State Extension)
- [California cancels registration of Midas soil fumigant](#) (3/21, The Grower)
- [Newer options for weed control in blueberries](#): *This March, 2011 publication from OSU weed specialist, Ed Peachey, has information on Stinger, Callisto, Sandea, Dual Magnum and Chateau use in blueberries.*
- **Matrix, herbicide: Supplemental label issued for Oregon & Washington caneberries & blueberries:**
 - Comments from Joe DeFrancesco, OSU Pesticide Specialist:
 - § Matrix has both pre- and post-emerge activity against broadleaf and grass weeds.
 - § It provides good post-emergence control of quackgrass (WSU data), pre-emerge control of dandelion seeds, and can suppress yellow nutsedge.
 - § There is a caution about tank mixing with diuron-containing products.
 - [Click here](#) for the newly issued supplemental label for blueberries & caneberries.
 - [Click here](#) for the full label.

Pest Alerts

Weeds

- **Alert:** Herbicide applications applied before the recent (or ongoing...) heavy rains are at risk of being washed out and/or weakened. Close monitoring of weed emergence is advised. Re-applications could be needed.

Diseases

- **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. This is the time to use a fungicide drench in raspberries. Warm, saturated soils allow 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." Delayed dormant sprays of lime/sulfur or elemental sulfur for Blackberry Rust (and Redberry Mites) are recommended to prevent later problems. Rally fungicide is also very effective on this disease.

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.
- **Alert: There are field reports of damage from this weevil at this time: Prime Time to Scout for:** [Clay Colored Weevils](#) northern raspberries & blueberries: This early emerging species is a pest 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.

[Click here](#) to go back to the top of this newsletter.

Additional, Ongoing Pest Management & IPM Information

Diseases

- **Prime Time to Scout for:** [Pseudomonas \(Bacterial Blight\)](#) blueberries- Water-soaked lesions can appear at this time of year on canes that then develop into reddish brown to black cankers. Cankers may extend from a fraction of an inch to the entire length of 1-year-old wood. Buds in cankers die. If girdled, the cane portion above the canker dies.

- **Prime Time to Scout for: [Purple Blotch](#) blackberries:** Check for cane lesions that are easy to see as the weather warms but the emerging foliage has not yet hidden. It's a good time to assess disease level.
- **Prime Time to Scout for: [Cane Blight](#) raspberries:** A good time to spot symptoms of cane blight is as the buds break. Infected canes will show either no bud break if the cane has been girdled or one-sided bud break if the infection is on one side. Scrape canes to look for rust colored streaks usually coming up from machine harvester scars. There is no treatment for cane blight once it's present only prevention. The time to prevent next year's canes from getting infected is to apply an appropriate fungicide immediately after harvest when fresh wounds normally become infected.

Insects/Mites

- **Prime Time to Scout for: [Strawberry Crown Moth](#) southern strawberries:** As plant growth resumes, plants weakened by SCM can be spotted. Infested plants will have a weakened crown and often will break off with a pull on the top growth.
- **[Raspberry Crown Borer](#) caneberries:** If you've had borer problems in the past, This 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:** Delayed dormant sprays of lime/sulfur or elemental sulfur for Blackberry Rust and Redberry Mite are recommended ASAP.
- **Birds, blueberries. Starling management:** Starlings are fledging. Population control becomes very difficult the later into the season we go because they multiply rapidly. This is a major pest species that needs year round management attention.
 - [Click here](#) for a starling fact sheet.
 - [Click here](#) for a starling nesting fact sheet.
 - [Click here](#) for the Okanagan (B.C.) grape grower starling trapping 2010 program synopsis. This is a well documented and well run starling management plan.

[Click here](#) to go back to the top of this newsletter.

Industry News/Resources

Newsletters/ Berry Reports

- [New Jersey Blueberry Bulletin for 3/26](#) *The first of the season. This is an excellent newsletter done weekly by Gary Pavlis, Rutgers blueberry extension agent.*
- [Strawberries and Caneberries blog](#) by Mark Bolda, UC Davis Berry Extension Agent. *Reports on recent insect and disease research & observations in California.*
- [Michigan State Fruit News](#) (4/2)
- ['The Source'](#) (4/2) *Market updates from The Produce News.*
- [Imperial Frozen Foods Newsletter](#) for 3/29
- [National Berry Report](#) *A daily-updated fresh market statistics report on all berry types hosted & maintained by the California Strawberry Commission*

Magazine compilations

- The Packer's Market scope: [blueberries](#) [blackberries](#) [raspberries](#) [strawberries](#)
Recent stories & fresh market pricing for the various berries from The Packer.
- Growing Produce: [Recent Berry Articles](#)

Labor/Immigration

- [Survey: 70% Support immigration reform for farm workers](#) (3/29, usagnet)
- [Labor is available early in Florida season, growers hopeful supply will hold out](#) (4/2, Produce News)

U.S. Farm Bill / Canadian Ag. Funding

- [Senators unveil major components of new Farm Bill](#) (3/30, insurancenewsnet.com)
- [Senators push for specialty crop funding](#) (4/3, The Grower)
- [Canadian agriculture funding cut in the 2012 budget](#) (April, AgAnnex)

Food Safety

- [Oregon berry growers initiate food safety training](#) (3/22, The Packer)
- [Webinar on CanadaGap for fruit, veg producers](#) (4/2, AgAnnex) Scheduled for April 30th.

Health

- [Eating well: 5 foods you should be eating for your body—inside and out](#) (3/28, Chicago Tribune)
- [Strawberry studies focus on insulin sensitivity, cholesterol](#) (3/28, The Packer)

Technology

- [Computer program aids insect tracking, management](#) (3/13, The Grower)
- [John Deere unveils mobile weather station](#) (3/1, The Grower)

National

- [Climate change impacts Michigan blueberry industry](#) (3/27, Michigan State Extension)
- [Georgia blueberry production goes big](#) (3/30, The Packer)
- [March freeze strengthens blueberry markets](#) (3/21, The Packer)
- [Opening new markets for Michigan's blueberries](#) (3/20, MSU)
- North Carolina: [Strawberries come early](#) (3/28, FreshPlaza)
- Maine: [Blueberry values net growers more returns](#) (3/27, FreshPlaza)
- [New Jersey growers dodge freeze damage](#) (3/29, The Packer)

International

- Chile: [Wireless sensor irrigation cuts water use in blueberry production](#) (3/30, FreshFruitPortal)
- Chile: ['Atypical' blueberry season winding up](#) (3/29, FreshFruitPortal)

[Click here](#) to go back to the top of this newsletter.

Event Calendar

For more comprehensive event calendar, [click here](#).

- **April 16— Oregon Blueberry Commission meeting** ~ 12-noon , Roth's West, Salem, OR (Budget Hearing). Call (503) 364-2944 for more information or [email](#) Brian Ostlund.
- **April 18 — Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission meeting** ~ 9 am, Langdon Farms Golf Club Restaurant, Aurora, OR. For more information, call 541-758-4043 or [email](#) Philip Gutt.
- **May 2 — Sumas Aquifer Groundwater Nitrate Science Forum II** ~ *Subtitled "What have we learned since the 2007 forum?"* ~ 8:30-4:30, Matsqui Centennial Auditorium, Abbotsford City Hall, 32315 South Fraser Way, Abbotsford, BC. [Click here](#) for the draft agenda. For information contact Bernie Zearth, Bernie.zearth@agr.gc.ca ; 506-452-4828.
- **May 3 — Oregon Strawberry Commission meeting** ~ 5:30, Roth's West. 1130 Wallace Rd NW, Salem OR. For more information, call 541-758-4043 or [email](#) Philip Gutt.
- **June 3-7 — International Raspberry Organization Conference** ~ Abbotsford, BC. Plans are being made for the one day 8th IRO conference and for raspberry tours in the Fraser Valley and in NW Washington.

Oregon State Open House Schedule

More information on these will be coming as they get closer. They'll be at the North Willamette Research & Extension Center in Aurora.

- **June 13 —Strawberry Open House**, starting at 1pm
- **July 11 — Caneberry Open House**, starting at 1pm
- **July 12 — Blueberry Field Day**, from 1 to 5pm

Nutrient Management

Blueberries

- Research has shown that the plant takes up very little nitrogen before late April. Recommended timing for split applications in the Willamette Valley is 1/3 in late April, 1/3 in mid-May and 1/3 in mid-June.
- [Click here](#) for OSU's "Nutrient Management in Blueberries" (16 page pdf).

Caneberries

- [Click here](#) for OSU's "Nutrient Management Guide—Caneberries" (8 page pdf).

Crop work

All crops

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

Blueberries

- Scout for Winter Moth/Spanworm and treat as needed.
- Can apply Bacterial Blight (*Pseudomonas*) management materials.
- (northern areas) Scout for Clay Colored Weevil feeding and treat as needed.
- 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.

Evergreen Blackberries

- Can still apply a delayed dormant spray of lime/sulfur or elemental sulfur for Redberry mites and Blackberry Rust.

Raspberries

- Burn back primocanes as needed.
- (northern areas) Scout for Clay Colored Weevil feeding and treat as needed.
- Can still apply Ridomil for Phytophthora root rot management.
- Can still 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.
- (Southern strawberries) Can scout for Strawberry Crown Moth larvae.

[Click here](#) to go back to the top of this newsletter.

Archived Small Fruit Updates

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

[03-20-12](#)

[03-13-12](#)

[03-06-12](#)