



April 3, 2007

[Small Fruit Cold Storage Reports](#)

[Weather Forecast](#) by Rufus La Lone

[Photo of the Week](#): Shock virus symptoms showing up this week on a Duke blueberry plant in the Willamette Valley.

Snow fell in the Whatcom County and the Fraser River Valley yesterday while, in the Willamette Valley, blueberries are starting to bloom and the first open strawberry flowers are showing up on Totem. **Frost** and **Pseudomonas** protection will be a **high priority in blueberries** this coming week.

Oregon blackberries: Some Marionberry and Silvan fields are starting to display apparent winter damage symptoms. It's much too early to assess how much or whether it could seriously impact overall yields. Many other fields are showing good bud break.

Canadian raspberries: Bud break has been very even in most fields with good color. Primocane burning has started along with fertilizer applications. Some fields have not been tied up in apparent reaction to the poor field prices and subsequent poor grower returns.

Whatcom County raspberries: Taking advantage of the dry days this week, a lot of field activity is going on including new field planting, fertilizing, lime sulfur applications and cane burning.

Canadian/ Whatcom County blueberries: Mummyberry and Pseudomonas control applications are going on. Some concern over poor fruit bud formation in some fields, particularly Blue Crop. Also some vegetative buds with necrotic leaf tissue showing as they open that could be from cold damage before plants hardened off.

Oregon blueberries: The bloom is starting. Patriots are being reported at anywhere from 20% to 50% bloom. Legacy and Brigitta are also coming along (2%-5%). Dukes and Rubels are just beginning. Shock virus symptoms are also becoming more prominent.

Blueberry Flower Cold Tolerance: From OSU Blueberry Extension specialist, Wei Yang: "I'm getting calls about frost. Growers may want to know that open flowers should be fine at temperatures above 28F. Flowers at pink stage should be OK at temperatures above 22F. A tight flower bud can tolerate temperatures as low as 10F."

Critical time for monitoring and/or preventing the following diseases:

Disease Alert: Pseudomonas (bacterial blight), blueberries. New, soft growth with nights below freezing are a high risk time for damage. Have protective materials in place before the freezes hit.

Disease Alert: Mummyberry, blueberries.

Disease Alert: Phragmidium rust: Evergreen blackberries.

[New Pest Information](#)

Insects

Aphids, blueberries. Pre bloom aphid control could be necessary in blueberry fields infected with or in close proximity to fields infected with [Scorch virus](#).

[Ongoing Pest Information](#)

1) **Clay colored weevil: northern raspberries.** It's about time for adults of this species to start emerging in **northern raspberry fields** where they feed on raspberry buds. While the species has been found in the south, it has not been reported at economically damaging levels.

2) **Winter moth: blueberries.** The timing and degree-day numbers say they should be hatching. Scout for winter moth larvae as buds start breaking.

3) **Crown borers: Caneberries.** March is the time to drench for crown borer control in caneberries.

Diseases

1) **Shock virus, southern blueberries.** Shock virus symptoms are just becoming visible in southern blueberry fields. The newly developing buds suddenly turn black and die. Infected plants recover but produce no crop for a year. No treatments

are available-- just need to let it run its course. If you suspect that your blueberry field has a virus problem you can call Bob Martin (USDA small fruit virologist) to arrange for free testing at (541) 738-4041 or [email](#) him.

2) **Yellow rust, southern raspberries.**

3) **Blueberry fruit drop virus:** "The plants flower normally, though **the young leaves and flowers have a transient red coloration that is absent in healthy plants.** The fruit develops to 3-5 millimeters in diameter and then aborts so that affected plants bear virtually no mature fruit." (Dr. R. Martin, small fruit virologist) Watch for this early symptom in this recently identified disorder.

Chemical Control Update

Herbicide: Strawberries: A Section 18 Emergency use label has been issued in Oregon for the use of **Spartan** herbicide in strawberries. This is a reissue of the same Spartan use that we've had for the past few years. [Click here](#) for a copy of the label.

Cropwork:

All crops: 1) Can apply fertilizer. 2) Weed control.

All Caneberries: 1) Can apply lime sulfur for disease and red berry mite control. 2) Can apply Ridomil for root rot control. 3) (northern areas) Begin scouting for clay colored weevil. 4) Can burn back primocanes.

Blueberries: 1) Pseudomonas prevention applications. 2) Scout for Winter Moth feeding. 3) Scout for mummyberries/control as needed. 4) Make preparations to bring in bees around 10% bloom. Can apply Bee Scent or other attractant when weather is cool and wet. 5) Scout for virus symptoms. 6) Apply prebloom aphid control insecticide as needed. 7) Plan to apply fungicide for fruit mold control at 10% bloom. This can also help twig dieback from botrytis infections.

Strawberries: 1) Can apply foliar Fosphite, Aliette or equivalent product for root rot control. 2) Plan for fungicide application to prevent fruit mold at 10% bloom. 3) Check weak areas for root weevil larvae, strawberry crown borers or root disease problems.

Some Upcoming Small Fruit Events ([Click here](#) for a more complete calendar)

Washington Blueberry Commission meeting

April 10 —10 am. in the Chicona Room at WSU, Puyallup. Contact Dorothy Anderson by phone 360-766-6150 or [email](#).

Oregon Blueberry Commission (Date has been changed)

May 8 —Noon, West Salem Roth's IGA in Salem, OR. Doaks Ferry Room, starting with budget hearing.

Berry Health Benefits Symposium

June 11-12 ~ Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR. [Click here for details.](#)