

Small Fruit Update



April 8, 2008

[Weather Forecast](#) by Rufus La Lone

[Photo of the Week](#): Winter moth & its feeding damage in blueberries.

[Small Fruit Cold Storage Report](#)

I'm considering changing the name of this email newsletter to '**Northwest Berry Crops Update**'. It would seem to fit the subject better than '**Small Fruits Update**'. Before making the change I thought I'd ask for comments or see if anyone could come up with an alternative that might be better. Any comments or suggestions? [Click here.](#)

Crop Development

Raspberries

- **British Columbia:** Meekers are slow with limited leaf development much past the top of the loops. Chemainus look a lot greener down the cane but really not pushing either. Some shoot burning going on this week, mostly in new fields. The slow development is causing some concern about waiting too long to burn and ending up with reduced primocane numbers. No fertilizer has been applied yet but we are close to starting as soon as soil temp increases a little.
- **Washington:** Things aren't moving very fast here, it's been so cold. Most of the lime sulfur is on the raspberries, people are fertilizing and cultivating. The last of the new plantings are finally going in.
- **Oregon/SW Washington:** As usual we're a little ahead of the northern areas but not much. The first round of fertilizing is on almost all fields. Got the leafroller traps out on the usual schedule but nothing is flying. Just waiting for a warm up. This coming weekend is looking like the warmest weather of the year.

Blackberries

- **Oregon:** As with the raspberries, just very slow right now. Both primocane and lateral growth is very much behind the last couple of years. No significant winter damage is anticipated but it's too early to make a full assessment.

Blueberries

- **British Columbia:** Development is very slow to stagnant. Saw a little early pink bud on some Northlands last week on soil that warmed up a little faster. Development ranges from bud burst to tight cluster to some very early pink bud in localized lighter soil areas. No nitrogen fertilizer on yet. We must be a couple weeks behind in development.
- **Washington:** Blueberries are pushing, but no bloom yet. Haven't seen any winter moth yet but we should be getting close.
- **Oregon/SW Washington:** Some bloom is starting to show up in Early Blue and Legacy. Patriots have been at pink bud stage now for about two weeks with little observed change. Just no change in soil or air temperatures to move things along. Very little accumulation of degree days. A couple of warm days should bring out the early blooming varieties quickly. Must have a lot of hungry, grouchy bees in those hives right now.

Strawberries

- Growth is just starting in all areas.

Industry News

- **Beekeeper has hives for rent for berry crops:** Chris Welch, located in Granite Falls, WA (East of Marysville) is looking for fields needing hives. 425-308-1969 or chriswelch@cmarysville.com
- **National Berry Report:** [Click here.](#) This is a free daily report now compiled by the California Strawberry Commission from USDA data. It tracks the daily shipping numbers and prices of fresh blueberries, raspberries, blackberries and strawberries.
- **California Strawberry Commission Research Database.** [Click here.](#) This might be the type of resource the northwest small fruit industry could develop. To quote from their introduction, "To help you find the answers you need as quickly as possible, we've uploaded research documents spanning 55 years of scientific inquiry. We're continually expanding the database, so you'll always have access to the best information."

Free testing for Phytophthora Root Rot: Available for Washington raspberry growers through a project funded by the Washington Red Raspberry Commission and Whatcom County IPM. Samples are collected by WSU Whatcom County Personnel in Whatcom County and by Peerbolt Crop Management (tom@peerbolt.com) in the south. Contact Colleen Burrows cburrows@wsu.edu, 360 392-1926 for more information.

New Pest Information

Insects

- **Insect Alert: Winter moth/ Bruce span worm blueberries:** Winter moth/ Span worm larvae have been reported in fields in all regions. Most commercial growers have applied insecticide applications within the last couple of weeks. Untreated fields should be carefully scouted at this time since infestations/damage can be very spotty.
- **Clay colored weevil: northern raspberries:** From one of our British Columbia contributors: "Noticed some weevil feeding of leaf and fruit buds on 3-4 year old Dukes and Bluecrop last week. Growers really have to watch for weevil activity especially in old raspberry fields or blue fields adjacent to raspberries as there is clay coloured weevil activity here as well as raspberries even with cool temps."
- **Aphids blueberries:** Aphids vector blueberry Scorch virus and in areas and fields where the virus is found, a pre-bloom application of a systemic insecticide is recommended. While aphids may not be readily visible, in British Columbia they have been recovered from opening bud clusters in most fields as far back as 3 weeks ago. Insecticide treatments should go on when there's been enough leaf development but before flowering.

Diseases

- **Disease Alert: Mummyberry blueberries:** Protective fungicides and/or other measures to control this disease will be needed over the next several weeks in fields where it is present. In Mummyberry sprays have been ongoing since early March and number of applications currently range from 2-3 on some fields with 4th starting end of this week.
- **Disease Alert: Phragmidium rust: Evergreen blackberries.**
Some pointers on control of this disease from Dr. Ken Johnson, OSU plant pathologist:
 - 1) Be sure lime sulfur has gone on recently. In early-mid April the overwintering spores are germinating whenever there's enough moisture.
 - 2) Even though the overwintering spores could be germinating, infections won't occur until leaves reach a stage of about three-quarter's expansion.
 - 3) 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).
 - 4) Scouting should continue through May and June to monitor the amount of rust that is developing.

On-going Pest Information

Insects

- **Redberry mites blackberries**

Diseases

- **Disease Alert: Pseudomonas (Bacterial Blight) blueberries:** Environmental conditions are prime in many areas for bacterial blight damage.
- **Phytophthora Root Rot raspberries:** There's still time to use a fungicide drench in raspberries.
- **Purple Blotch blackberries:** Check for cane lesions that are easy to see right now.
- **Cane blight raspberries:** 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.
- **Blackberry rust (Phragmidium Rust) Evergreen blackberries**

Symposium Information

- **July 14-16, 2008: The 9th International Vaccinium Symposium** will be held at Oregon State University in Corvallis. In addition, a pre-conference tour is scheduled to tour blueberry, cranberry, and lingonberry production in the area. Although this is a scientific meeting with researchers from all over the world presenting, some industry members may wish to attend. **Early registration ends April 11.** For more information [click here](#) for the web site - Bernadine Strik and Chad Finn, co-conveners.

Cropwork

All crops

- Weed control.

Blueberries

- Plan fertilizer program.
- 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

- Apply fertilizer as needed.
- Scout for purple blotch lesions.
- Apply insecticide drench for crown borer control.
- Burn back primocanes as needed.

Evergreen Blackberries

- Delayed dormant spray of lime/sulfur or elemental sulfur for blackberry rust and redberry mites.

Raspberries

- Apply fertilizer as needed.
- Can burn back primocanes as needed.
- 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.
- Till row centers.
- Can apply [Aliette](#) or equivalent product for root rot control.

Upcoming Meetings: ([Click here](#) for an extended small fruit calendar)

- **April 8 —Oregon Strawberry Commission meeting** ~ 6 pm. Roths West, Salem, OR. [Email](#) or call the commission office for more information 541-758-4043.
- **April 8 —Honey Bee Health and other Pollinators**~11:30 - 2 p.m. LaSalle's Stewart Center at OSU. Oregon State University is sponsoring a meeting to discuss the need for research on honey bee health and other pollinators. RSVP to [Stella Coakley](#) by Wednesday April 2 to confirm your attendance. Attendance and lunch are free of charge.
- **April 10 —Washington Blueberry Commission meeting** ~ Eltopia, WA. Time to be announced. [Email](#) or call Alan Schreiber at for more information 509-266-4305.
- **April 22 —Oregon Blueberry Commission meeting** ~ Budget Hearing - noon, West Salem Roth's IGA in Salem, OR. Doaks Ferry Room at noon. Call the Commission office for more information 503-364-2944.
- **May 13 —Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission meeting** ~ 6 PM, Langdon Farms Golf Club, Aurora, OR . [Email](#) or call the commission office for more information 541-758-4043.
- **June 5 — Washington Blueberry Commission meeting** ~ Teleconference. Time to be announced. [Email](#) or call Alan Schreiber for more information 509-266-4305 for more.
- **June 11 —OSU Strawberry Open House** ~ starting at 2:00 pm at the North Willamette Research and Extension station, 15210 NE Miley Road, Aurora, OR. Call (541) 737-5434 or email [Bernadine Strik](#) for more information.
- **July 2 —OSU Caneberry Open House** ~ starting at 1:00 pm at the North Willamette Research and Extension station, 15210 NE Miley Road, Aurora, OR. Call (541) 737-5434 or email [Bernadine Strik](#) for more information.