



February 10, 2009

[You Tube link of the week:](#) This is from 5 months ago but raspberry and boysenberry beer news never gets old.

[Photos of the week:](#) Vole damage in raspberries. Photo on left: What it looks like above ground. Photo on right: What it looks like underground.

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

[Small Fruit Cold Storage Report](#)

[Upcoming Meetings:](#)

Meeting Information

- **February 17— Oregon Strawberry Commission annual meeting**~ North Willamette Research and Extension Center. Aurora, OR. Call 541-758-4043 or email [Philip Gütt](#) for more information.
- **February 19-21— Lower Mainland Horticultural Society Annual Horticulture Growers Short Course & 11th Annual Pacific Agriculture Trade Show**~ Tradex Exhibition Center (Abbotsford, B.C. airport). Sponsored by B.C. Innovation Council. [Click here](#) for official website with agendas and registration information. Washington State Pesticide License Credits will be available for the appropriate sessions.
- **February 25th— 4th Annual Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission's Grower Workshop** ~ 8:30 am-3:30 pm at the North Willamette Research and Extension Center. While there is **no charge**, food and space are limited; so, please let us know by February 20th if you're planning to attend. Call (503-289-7287) or email [Beth Robinson](#) at the Peerbolt Crop Management office.
[Click here for the full agenda.](#) **Workshop will include:**
 - Brent Serle, Oregon Dept. of Ag: Possible ODA supervised price negotiations
 - Gary Neuschwander, ODA: Marionberry/Blackberry Certification Program
 - Lindsay Benson Eng, ODA: GAP standards
 - Clark Seavert, OSU: Discussion on OSU Extension and Research Activities at the North Willamette Station
 - Bernadine Strik, OSU: Assessing Winter Damage
 - Chad Finn: USDA: Cultivar development and managing the release of future blackberry cultivars
 - Also: Changes in Pesticide labeling and Sprayer technology

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.)

- **Skagit county, northern Washington:** (2/6) Pruning continues in our organic blueberries. Right now working on Duke and Bluejay and will finish up with the Elliotts later this month. We are replacing about 18 acres of sawdust/compost mulch on the blues lost in the flooding. Some freeze damage is evident on our Chester and Black Diamond blackberries from the December freeze.
- **Whatcom county, northern Washington:** (2/6) Bad weather started up this morning putting an end to a busy week. Lots of pruning and tying going on. Copper getting sprayed in blues and light doses of herbicides going on to hold back weeds until the main pre emergent applications. Winter cover crops getting sprayed with glyphosate and people getting anxious about fertilizer. Still pretty early by my calendar but good weather is getting lots and lots of work done. Whatcom County is scrambling to maintain its starling control program after the county was forced to discontinue funding due to budget cuts. If anyone has fundraising ideas, contact Henry Bierlink (360-354-8767).

Crop totals Update:

- **British Columbia Blueberries:** B.C. Blueberry Council numbers for the 2008 season are: **68 million pounds total** with 35 million going into the fresh market and 33 million going into the processed market.

Industry News

- **Results of 2007 USDA agricultural census released:** [Click here](#) for the introductory story. [Click here](#) (USDA, 2/4/09) for the actual survey. This is done every 5 years so it's good information on general ag trends comparing 2002 to 2007 broken down by state and county.
- **Milk destroys antioxidant benefits in blueberries:** [Click here](#) (Natural News, 2/3/09). Sometimes these researchers just don't know when to stop.
- **Blend frozen fruit products hit Whole Foods' shelves:** [Click here](#) (My Process Expo 365, 2/5/09) Marionberry-Pineapple?
- **Plums, stone fruits as good as blueberries:** [Click here](#) (UPI, 2/2/09) So...who funded *this* study?
- **Salmonella outbreak fuels food-safety efforts:** [Click here](#) (Wall Street Journal, 2/9/09)

New Pest Information

- **Voles:** Some raspberry fields and blueberry fields in Oregon and SW Washington have very high levels of voles with a lot of activity. Evaluating your vole population and taking control actions now will be much more effective than waiting until they begin breeding. [Click here](#) for some background and biology information on voles (or meadow mice). [Click here](#) for information on how to construct bait stations.
- **Scale blueberries:** A dormant oil or **Esteem (Pyriproxyfen)** can be used while blueberries are dormant.
- **Leafroller larvae blueberries:** **This is a minor pest at this time of year but has on occasion been reported to cause economic damage.** Scout for buds held tightly together with webbing.

Ongoing Pest Information

- **Pseudomonas (Bacterial Blight) blueberries:** Water-soaked lesions usually appear at this time of year on canes in some fields that then develop into reddish brown to black cankers.
- **Phytophthora root rot, Washington raspberries:** The *Phytophthora rubi* survey is being funded through the end of June 2009. Pre-plant samples (boxed plants or roots) and in-field samples can be taken and analyzed for the presence of *Phytophthora rubi* at no charge until that point. If you are interested in having samples analyzed, please contact [Colleen Burrows](#), (360) 676-6736 for Northern Washington, or [Tom Peerbolt](#) for Southern Washington. More information can be found at: <http://whatcom.wsu.edu/ag/IPM/phytophthora.htm>.

Cropwork

All Crops

- Scout for voles and treat as needed.

Blueberries

- Finish pruning- apply Bordeaux after pruning.
- Scout for bud damage & determine cause.
- Dormant oil can be applied for scale and winter moth egg control.
- Can apply Casoron (dichlobenil) or Chateau for weed control.

Blackberries

- Mechanically "brush" canes to remove detritus that could become harvest contaminants. Wait for dry, sunny conditions.
- Don't begin training down Marionberries until after threat of damaging cold weather is passed.
- Can apply Casoron (dichlobenil) for weed control. Especially good on quackgrass.

Evergreen Blackberries

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

Raspberries

- Can apply Casoron (dichlobenil) for weed control. Especially good on quackgrass.

Strawberries

- Can apply pre-emergent herbicides. One choice--Spartan (sulfentrazone) until February 28. It's off label after that date.