



February 18, 2009

[You Tube link of the week:](#) Using electricity to cook berries for processing?

[Photos of the week:](#) Same as last week—Scouting/managing voles right now could save you from big yield losses.

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

[Small Fruit Cold Storage Report](#)

[Upcoming Meetings:](#)

New Pest Information

- **Voles:** There's been some misunderstandings about vole management materials and techniques. Some relevant points:
 - Rodent control materials must be used only in the ways prescribed on the labels. For example, if bait stations are not on the label, the bait can't be used in that way.
 - No anti-coagulant materials, like Rozol, are labeled for berry crops.
 - The bottom line with Zinc Phosphide baits-- they have a high risk of killing birds and other non-target species but are the only effective material we have to deal with a very serious pest. Use this tool wisely. We need it.
- **Funky Spot, blueberries:** In mentioning this newly identified blueberry disease a couple of weeks ago, I said to watch for it in Legacy and rabbiteyes. That might be too limiting. One of our contributors sent in the following comments. "It is my understanding that if funky spot were to make it to the Pacific northwest it would probably be present in any cultivar. The only reason to think that it would preferentially be in Legacy or Rabbiteyes would be if the material came from the Southeastern U.S. (which I think is extremely rare). It's just that they don't grow our northern highbush cultivars in the southeast."

New Eastside Blueberry Meeting

- **March 12 — WSU and the Washington Blueberry Commission** are holding a workshop targeted toward eastside blueberry growers and other industry professionals at the WSU Prosser Research & Extension Center. [Click here](#) for the agenda, registration information and driving directions.

Other meeting 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 Serie, 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.)

- **Fraser river valley, British Columbia:** (2/16) Beautiful dry weather in BC for most of February has been great for getting field work done.

- **Raspberries:** Pruning and tying still going on in some raspberries but for the most part just some looping and tipping to finish. Buds are still tight. A couple of new fields started planting just this past weekend where the soil was dry and workable. For the most part weed control can start as soon as all the pruned canes are mulched. It's a little early for fertilizer. Don't see much of any winter kill issues at this point. Generally the canes look in good shape so far. The winter has been ideal and dormancy has held keeping the plants safe.
- **Blueberries:** Pruning is continuing. Plants are still dormant and tight. I'm not seeing a lot of disease so far but it may be a little early for bacterial blight infections to show. Lots of field vole activity so growers have been directed to get on the control measures stat before the breeding season. Overall, I see lots of fruit buds out there to start the season. I'm just not sure whether that's a good omen or not.
- **Whatcom county, Northern Washington:** (2/16) Good weather this week is getting everyone motivated to put on their herbicides. Lime is being put on fields that could not get done in the fall.
- **Central Willamette Valley, Oregon:** (2/17) It's been dry and cool for a long stretch now. All the caneberries, strawberries and blueberries are staying nicely dormant. We're looking at hitting 60 (F) later this week for the first time this year. We've had plenty of chilling hours so these plants are just waiting for some warm weather to break bud. There's the usual speculation going on about possible winter damage in the Marionberries but it's just too early to make any assessment. Pruning, pre emergent herbicides and vole baiting are all going on, some new fields going in.

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. 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>.
- **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.