



March 18, 2009

[You Tube link of the week:](#) Giving strawberries a head start. An overview of Sierra-Cascade wholesale strawberry nursery operation.

[Photos of the week:](#) Lecanium scale and leafroller larvae in blueberries.

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

[Small Fruit Cold Storage Report](#)

[Upcoming Meetings](#)

We're way behind on degree day development.

We're even behind last year's "latest harvest on record".

And another cool week ahead. Stay tuned...

Degree Day heat units accumulation comparison to date (41 degree minimum) as of 3/16/08

	2009	2008	2007
Forest Grove	209	236	305
Aurora (Research Station)	243	276	357
Salem (McNary Field)	233	235	350
Corvallis (OSU)	229	226	340
Vancouver, WA	249	283	318
Mt. Vernon/Skagit, WA	142	196	252

For more detailed degree day/weather information, go to www.nwipm.info and click on the degree day information link

Regional report

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 Valley, British Columbia: (3/16/09) Not much happening. A cold, wet weekend just passed. Today is cold 4-5C(40F) with snow on the ground this evening and barely above freezing. All bud movement on blues and raspberries at a standstill. Blues still at bud swell and raspberries about the same as a week ago. Meekers are very slow, not really at bud burst stage yet. A pretty crazy start to things. Winter just doesn't want to give up.

Food Safety Issue Update

There's a lot of activity swirling around this issue right now.

- **Background on H.R. 875:** [Click here](#). This is from Food and Water Watch, an advocacy group, that gives a bullet point breakdown of what's on the legislative table. It also gives you the flavor of how some consumer groups are framing the issue. This process is going to effect the way we do business.
- **Food Safety and Modernization Act of 2009 (H.R. 875):** [Click here](#) to view the bill and be able to track its progress through congress.
- **Safe Food Enforcement, Assessment, Standards, and Targeting Act of 2009 (H.R. 1332):** [Click here](#) to view the bill and be able to track its progress through congress. The acronym for this one, you ready? **Safe FEAST Act**. Boy, those guys are clever.
- **United States-Food safety record one of the worlds worse:** [Click here](#). (3/16/09, Farming UK) This is one article from the United Kingdom.
- **Florida growers embrace food safety audits:** [Click here](#). (3/11/09, ThePacker.com)

Job Opening

Correction: Last week's Update had an error in the email address listed below. This includes the correct one.

- **Briggs Nursery** is seeking a competent and experienced individual to represent us in the sale of clean, tissue culture produced grapes and small fruit to various growers in the Pacific Northwest. Industry experience required. Please send resume to: djarzynka@briggsnursery.com.

Websites of interest

- **American/Western Fruit Grower magazine** has a great industry website. [Click here](#).
- **Chinese raspberry producer:** [Click here](#) Get a glimpse of the raspberry industry in China.

Industry news

- **Scientists, farmers make progress in stretching strawberry growing season:** [Click here](#), (3/15/09, Salisbury Post-N. Carolina)
- **USDA to dole out \$28 billion in stimulus funds:** [Click here](#) (3/16/09, Produce.com) ...and here's what the stimulus is doing for agriculture.
- **Golden Blueberry:** [Click here](#) (3/2009, GrowingProduce.com) "San Joaquin", a new southern highbush cultivar from Fall Creek Nursery looks good for California growers.

Meeting Information

- **March 18 — Oregon Blueberry Commission budget meeting~** 12 pm. West Salem Roth's IGA Doaks Ferry Meeting Room- Salem, OR. For more information: 503-370-3790.
- **March 20 — Two IPM workshops** in Mt. Angel (8-11:30 am) and McMinnville (1:30-5 pm) to kick off a new, three-year, watershed scale IPM and pesticide risk reduction program. **Four core re-certification credits** at each event. These first workshops are relevant to producers within and beyond these watersheds, including Christmas trees, hops, grass seed, **small fruit**, nurseries and vegetables. [Click here](#) for the Mt. Angel information. [Click here](#) for the McMinnville information. Or call Mary Halbleib 543-737-2683.
- **March 24-26, 2009 — 6th International IPM Symposium "Transcending Boundaries"** Oregon Convention Center, Portland, OR. [Click here](#) for more information. Symposium sessions will address IPM across disciplines internationally, in agriculture, the market place, urban settings, greenhouses, and more.
- **March 31 – WSU Extension, Whatcom County: Scouting Field Day –** Discussing scouting techniques and current pest issues in blueberries (10AM) and raspberries (11AM). Scouting guide for each individual crop provided. Refreshments will be served. Contact Colleen Burrows for location information (360) 676-6736.
- **April 4— A Course for New Growers~** 9 am-4 pm. North Willamette Research and Extension, Aurora, OR. How to develop and Manage a New Blueberry Planting. Pre-registration required \$45. One-day course. [Click here](#) for more information.

Ongoing Pest Information

Diseases

- **Disease Alert: Mummyberry blueberries:** Plan now for control. Many fields, especially in the south, are at or getting close to green tip stage (vegetative buds are showing green color) when infections can take place. If the field or adjacent fields have a history of mummyberry infections, preventative applications should begin at green tip stage.
- **Disease Alert (southern blueberries): Pseudomonas (Bacterial Blight) blueberries:** Environmental conditions are prime in many areas for bacterial blight damage. These are primarily plants that are breaking dormancy along with night temperatures that go below freezing. Management options include various copper formulations as well as [Serenade Max](#), a biological control product that also has some activity in controlling mummyberry. Control/prevention agents should be in place well before cold night temperatures happen.
- **Phytophthora Root Rot raspberries:** March is the time to use a fungicide drench in raspberries.
- **Purple Blotch blackberries:** This is the time of year that the lesions are easily visible and growers can assess the level of infection.
- **Blackberry Rust (Phragmidium Rust) evergreen blackberries:** At this time, it's recommended to apply lime sulfur at the highest rate allowed to minimize the amount of inoculum that can infect the emerging new growth. Penetration and coverage are keys to optimizing efficacy of this application.
- **Cane Blight raspberries:** A good time to spot symptoms of cane blight is as the buds break. Infected canes will show either no budbreak if the cane has been girdled or one-sided budbreak if the infection is on one side.

Insects

- **Winter Moth/ Bruce Span Worm blueberries:** Begin scouting for winter moth larvae as buds start breaking.
- **Raspberry Crown Borers caneberries:** March 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.
- **Clay Colored Weevil northern raspberries**

- **Redberry Mite evergreen blackberries:** Dormant spray of lime/sulfur or elemental sulfur for Blackberry Rust and Redberry Mite is recommended in March.
- **Scale blueberries:** A dormant oil or **Esteem** (Pyriproxyfen) can be used while blueberries are dormant.
- **Leafroller larvae blueberries**

Other

- **Voles:** Zinc phosphide baits can be applied only until budbreak in caneberries and blueberries.