



**March 24, 2009**

[You Tube link of the week:](#) Gingerich Farms Profile—Using falconry for bird management and marketing.

[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](#)

*Another slow plant development week...*

### **Blueberry Information**

*Much of this information has been in past updates. It's collected here for convenience.*

- **So what is "green tip stage"?** [Click here](#) for a pictorial guide put together by Michigan State University of the various stages of blueberry growth development along with a temperature range of how cold sensitive each stage is.
- **Blueberry Fertilizer timing:** We're getting to a traditional time for applying fertilizer. Many growers still apply the first application just before the buds break. Recent research shows the plant takes up very little nitrogen before late April. Recommended timing for split applications in the Willamette Valley is 1/3 in late April, 1/3 in mid-May and 1/3 in mid-June. Click on the link below for more information.  
[Nutrient Management for Blueberries in Oregon](#) (Free 16 pages).
- **Disease Alerts:**
  - [Mummyberry:](#) Infections can take place at green tip stage. If the field or adjacent fields have a history of mummyberry infections, preventative applications should begin at green tip stage.
  - [Pseudomonas \(Bacterial Blight\):](#) 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. Control/prevention agents should be in place well before cold night temperatures happen.
- **British Columbia Blueberry Council Mummyberry Update:** [Click here.](#) Excellent, detailed information on mummyberry dynamics, management options and timing.

### **Regional reports**

- **Skagit County reports, Northern Washington:**
  - (3/19/09) Finished spraying in the blueberries last Friday with lime sulfur and oil. Waited until the freezes were past and just ahead of the rain. Sure glad it's done (for now!!). Found some evidence of Winter Moth chewing, but nothing fresh. I think we got pretty good control. Buds really popped just before that cold snap last week, but looks like no damage here.
  - (3/20/09) We finished up our oil on our organic blueberries last Friday. Going to wait a bit on lime sulfur until we get 3/4" growth on the vegetative buds, sort of a delayed dormant. Soil temps averaged about 43 deg F this week. Our blackberries are toast; looks like we will cut them down and try again next year. The Black Diamonds look ok from a distance, but when you cut them there is no bud inside, just leaves. We pruned early to beat the minimum wage hike. Should have waited.
- **Whatcom County reports, Northern Washington:**
  - (3/20/09) We got on a bit of blueberry herbicide. Now, it is still cold and wet, it's going to be hectic at some point. Plants are in standby mode. We ain't doin nuthin.
  - (3/23/09) Still pretty slow. We got the rain that we needed for herbicides and now it can go away. Fertilizer trickling out to the warmest and driest of fields and that is it. More rain and snow in the forecast this week. Blues swelling in spite of crummy weather but at a snail's pace. Reds just parked waiting for good times.
  - Blackberries actively being introduced to the later part of the carbon cycle. Robins galore in all the fields. Keep hearing about this rumor called farming. I don't think it really happens though. Just a myth around here.

## Job Opening

- **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](mailto:djarzynka@briggsnursery.com).

## Industry news

- **U.S. lawmaker blasts China food safety:** [Click here](#) (3/18/09 Reuters) Another aspect of the food safety issue.
- **Cold snap delays California blueberry harvest:** [Click here](#) (3/18/09, ThePacker.com)
- **Organic price tags may be hard to swallow:** [Click here](#) (3/18/09, The Globe and Mail) "The current crisis marks the first time organic retailers will have to face a sharp economic downturn since the industry's boom began"
- **No replacement waits in wings for methyl bromide:** [Click here](#) (3/19/09, Capital Press)
- **WSU faces budget crunch:** [Click here](#) (3/19/09, Capital Press)

## Meeting Information

- **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 – Scouting for Pests at Pre-Bloom, Whatcom County.** We will be covering scouting technique and current pest issues in blueberries (10AM) and raspberries (11AM). Scouting guide for each individual crop provided. Refreshments will be served. Located at Boxx Berry Farm, 6211 Northwest Rd, Ferndale, WA. For more information contact Whatcom County WSU Extension (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

- **Mummyberry:** See blueberry information above.
- **Pseudomonas (Bacterial Blight):** See blueberry information above.
- **Phytophthora Root Rot raspberries:** March is the time to use a fungicide drench in raspberries.
- **Purple Blotch blackberries:** The lesions are easily visible and growers can assess the level of infection.
- **Blackberry Rust** (Phragmidium Rust) **evergreen blackberries**
- **Cane Blight raspberries:** A good time to spot symptoms of cane blight is as the buds break.

### 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:** The treatment is the same as for RCB.
- **Clay Colored Weevil northern raspberries.**
- **Redberry Mite evergreen blackberries.**
- **Scale blueberries:** A dormant oil or [Esteem](#) (Pyriproxyfen) can be used while blueberries are dormant.
- **Leafroller larvae blueberries**

### Other

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

## Cropwork

### All crops

- Plan fertilizer program.
- Weed control.

### Blueberries

- 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

- Scout for Purple Blotch Lesions.
- Apply insecticide drench for crown borer control.

### Evergreen Blackberries

- Dormant spray of lime/sulfur or elemental sulfur for Blackberry Rust and Redberry Mites.

### Raspberries

- 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.