



March 3, 2009

[You Tube link of the week:](#) Washington red raspberries. A full year in the life of Lynden raspberries put to banjo music.

[Photos of the week:](#) A preview-- Sprouting mummyberries. New infections can occur when these mummies are sprouting and blueberries are at or beyond green tip stage and when environmental conditions are right.

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

[Small Fruit Cold Storage Report](#)

[Upcoming Meetings](#)

So far this year we're running well behind normal in degree day development.

New Pest Information

- **[Voles:](#)** Zinc phosphide baits can be applied only until budbreak in caneberries and blueberries and are not labeled for strawberries. These baits have a high risk of killing birds and other non-target species. Use this pest management tool wisely.

Diseases

- **[Mummyberry:](#) blueberries: Plan now for control.** Many fields, especially in the south, are getting close to green tip stage (vegetative buds are close to showing the first 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.
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.
- **[Phytophthora Root Rot](#) raspberries:** March is the time to use a fungicide drench in raspberries.
- **[Purple Blotch](#) blackberries:** Check for cane lesions that are easy to see right now.
- **[Blackberry Rust \(Phragmidium Rust\)](#) Evergreen blackberries:** Dormant spray of lime/sulfur or elemental sulfur for Blackberry Rust and Redberry Mites is recommended in March to prevent later problems.

Insects

- **[Raspberry Crown Borer](#) caneberries:** If you've had borer problems in the past, 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 Weevils](#) southern strawberries:** This early emerging species is usually just considered a pest of raspberries in northern growing areas where it feeds on newly emerging shoots and buds. But very recently emerged adult Clay Colored Weevils have been recovered this week from a southern strawberry field.
- **[Redberry Mites](#) blackberries:** Dormant spray of lime/sulfur or elemental sulfur for Blackberry Rust and Redberry Mites is recommended in March.

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.
- **[Scale](#) blueberries:** A dormant oil or [Esteem](#) (pyriproxyfen) can be used while blueberries are dormant.
- **[Leafroller larvae](#) blueberries.**

New Meeting Information

- **March 6— OSU Mt. Hood Blueberry Pruning Workshop**, starting approximately at 1 pm at Heirloom Orchards Fletcher Ranch, Odell. Led by Dr. Bernadine Strik. [Click here](#) for details or call 541-386-3343.

- **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.
- **March 19— Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission**, noon at the Langdon Farms Golf Club. Call 541-758-4043 or email [Philip Gütt](#) for more information.
- **April 4— OSU Extension-How to Develop & Manage a New Blueberry Planting—A Course for New Growers.** From 9 to 4. This is targeted at new growers. \$45 including lunch. Pre-registration required. It will be at the North Willamette Research Station led by Drs. Bernadine Strik and Wei Yang. [Click here](#) for the agenda and registration form.

Industry News

- **At last Sweet Blackberries Stay the Course:** [Click here](#) (New York Times, 7/25/07) This is an older article but it's a valuable viewpoint on the state of the blackberry market. Part of the problem is that most customers don't distinguish northwest trailing blackberries from fresh or wild blackberries. They're all lumped together as 'blackberries'.
- **Berry Fresh jumps on Disney bandwagon:** [Click here](#) (Fruitnet.com, 2/18/09) Nice idea.
- **Well-Pict to roll out berry packs in April:** [Click here](#) (ThePacker.com, 2/25/09)
- **Blueberry growers weigh status of commission:** [Click here](#) (ThePacker.com, 2/25/09) This is in reference to a California commission.
- **2008 a good year for farmers and ranchers in Oregon:** [Click here](#) (Portland Business Journal, 2/18/08) Small fruits and berries gained 23% over 2007. Cranberries were a big part of it.
- **Drought adds to hardships in California:** [Click here](#) (New York Times, 2/21/09)
- **Naturipe hires director for blueberry business:** [Click here](#) (ThePacker.com 2/27/09)

Crop Totals Update

- **Washington Strawberries:** The Washington Strawberry Commission reports a crop total of 13,163,567 pounds in 2008. The 2007 total was 13,011,000. Figures are based on collected assessments.

Control Option Update:

- **Herbicide, strawberries:** [Oregon](#) and [Washington](#) have both received approval of a Section 18 emergency label for the pre-emergent herbicide, **Spartan** (sulfentrazone) for the 2009-2010 season. Use is allowed during three distinct use periods: prior to planting, after renovation, and during dormancy. The labels expire on 2/28/10.

Insect & disease scouting guidelines

All crops

- Vole tunneling.
- Weed status.

Blueberries---Southern growing areas

- Spouting mummyberries.
- Bacterial canker dieback.
- Leafroller larvae in buds.

Strawberries

- Weevil larvae.

Caneberries

- Purple Blotch lesions in Marionberries.

Cropwork guidelines

All crops

- Treat for voles.
- Weed management.

Blueberries

- Finish pruning- apply Bordeaux or copper after pruning.
- Dormant oil can be applied for Scale and Winter Moth egg control.

Blackberries

- Mechanically "brush" canes to remove detritus that could become harvest contaminants. Wait for dry, sunny conditions.
- Lime sulfur applications for Redberry Mites and/or disease management.
- Drench for Crown Borer management.

Evergreen Blackberries

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

Raspberries

- Can apply Ridomil for Phytophthora Root Rot.
- Drench for Crown Borer management.