



March 31, 2009

You Tube links of the week: A couple of recent agricultural technology videos:

- Plant architecture changes & harvesting innovations in apples: [Click here](#).
- A weed spot sprayer that uses up to 80% less herbicide & can be driven at 6 MPH? [Click here](#).

Photos of the week: Blueberry bud stages in the Willamette Valley are now from bud swell (photo on left) to early pink bud (photo on right).

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

[Small Fruit Cold Storage Report](#)

[Upcoming Meetings](#)

Dean Bredekamp, Northwest berry industry pioneer has died: Just a couple of years ago, the Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission gave the Bob Conroy award to Dean and his son, King, in recognition of their contributions to the berry industry. I hear that Bob and Dean were good friends. [Click here](#) for the obituary and funeral details. Thanks, Dean.

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 valley, British Columbia (3/29/09) Blueberries:** Bluecrop and Duke are pushing in all areas of the Fraser Valley late this past week. A lot of Mummyberry spraying going on today as this appears to be the last good day for a while. Daytimes are still pretty cool, some morning frost.
Raspberries: Still very slow to move. Sure would like a warming trend. I know the cool growing and soil conditions are a big factor, but in some fields I'm beginning to wonder if the big mite infestation last summer has taken some of the jam out of these plants, especially Meekers.
- **Skagit County, Northern Washington: (3/27/09)** With the buds opening on most everything (Bluecrop and Duke being the furthest along), I keep thinking the frost and cold temps are going to hurt us at some point, but so far, they seem to be tolerating it pretty well. It looks like weather will keep us out of the field for a while yet. Ordered two cases of sunshine, only to find out it's back ordered.
- **Whatcom County, Northern Washington:(3/26/09)** Kind of late for parkas and wool hats. Baby raspberries pushing now, a little bit of lime sulfur going on. Blueberries pushing, but no sign of Mummyberry growth. Strawberries sitting out this dance. Raspberry planting still pretty much on hold.
- **Northern Willamette Valley, Washington, Oregon: (3/30/09)** A broken record but—it's just really slow and looks like it'll continue that way for a couple more weeks at least. In blueberries: some of the early flowering cultivars like Patriot and Legacy are starting to move into pink bud stage. Mummyberry and Pseudomonas prevention sprays going on. Blackberries and raspberries are breaking with some growth about an inch or two out in some fields. Pretty variable across differing areas. Still no real cold damage evident, but we're getting into the plant development time when a cold spell could do damage.

Industry news

- **Blueberries: Good for Health, Good for Economy:** [Click here](#) (3/25/09, VOA News.com) A Voice of America article pretty much about Wild Maine blueberries.
- **Strawberries make season debut at California Agriculture Day:** [Click here](#) (3/27/09 Freshplaza.com)
- **Hearing questions adequacy of third-party auditors:** [Click here](#) (3/26/09 ThePacker.com) Still another important aspect of the food safety issue. Who can be trusted to 'certify' safe practices?
- **Costco sticks to expansion plan, despite recession:** [Click here](#) (3/25/09 ThePacker.com)
- **CanadaGap certifies its first farm:** [Click here](#) (3/24/09 ThePacker.com)

Meeting Information

- **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.

- **March 31— Oregon Strawberry Commission budget meeting**~ 4 pm. **Regular meeting** starts at 5 pm. West Salem Roth's, Salem, OR. Call 541-758-4043 or email [Philip Gütt](#) for more information.
- **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: 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.

Disease Alert: 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.

- **Phytophthora Root Rot raspberries:** 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

- **Voles:** 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.