



April 21, 2009

[You Tube link of the week](#): "Spotlight on Blueberries" A 2005 promotional video.

[Photos of the week](#): As raspberries leaf out, a diagnostic chevron pattern can be seen in plants infected with Tomato Ringspot Virus (photo on left). Virus damage in field (photo on right).

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

[Small Fruit Cold Storage Report](#)

[Upcoming Meetings](#)

Disease Alert: Mummyberry. Blueberries: I'm kind of sick of this alert, too, however—this disease took a lot of fruit last year--keep up with the program. If you've seen this disease in your area, now is the time to put consistent and persistent efforts into breaking the disease cycle and preventing new infections.

Insect Alert: Winter Moth/ Bruce Spanworm blueberries: Hatches of Winter Moth/ Spanworm have been reported in both southern and northern growing areas. The larvae have the potential to do significant damage to emerging flower buds. Monitor closely.

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 (4/20/09) Still behind but there is hope that the warming trend this week will get some development pushing.

- **Blueberries:** Dukes have little leaf expansion yet and seem to be stuck at bud break to tight cluster stage. Bluecrop, Reka are more advanced in early leaf expansion stage with some loose fruit bud clusters. Some early pink bud in the Reka. Quite a bit of fertilizer out and third mummyberry sprays just on.
- **Raspberries:** Chemainus showing good upper cane leaf growth. Meekers continue to be slow but lateral buds are now opening up into early leave in the upper cane areas. Still quite slow down low and I'm sure there is some winter damage affecting the development. First fertilizer applications getting done and all should be on by the end of this week.
- **Strawberries:**(4/17/09): More bad news from the strawberries in BC, the more west toward the ocean the better, but many eastern plantings are wiped out by that cold early December wind without snow.

Skagit County, Northern Washington (4/17/09)

- **Organic blueberries:** We finished up the first round of dry fertilizer on the organic blues. Did some very effective vinegar spraying during last week's two-day warm spell. Organic blues with black nylon weed mat under are significantly ahead of blocks with our sawdust/compost mulch.
- **Blueberries:** Reka's are at early pink stage. Duke's are between .25 green and early pink. Everything else (everything being Blue Jay and Blue Crop) are at post bud burst stage. Some frost damage is showing now, but very little percentage, and then, only in Blue Crop. Don't ask me why. I think everyone here is finished with dry fertilizer, and prepping for next protection sprays. At this point, I would say we are three to six days behind last year. If we get a warm spell, it could be a compressed harvest.
- **Strawberries:** Subsoiling, disking and rotovating has been done in most strawberries. Hoods look better than Totems at this point but I think it's due more to location than variety.

Whatcom County, Northern Washington (4/17/09)

- **Blueberries:** Still fertilizing blues with the second round of mummyberry prevention applications next week. Some freeze damage to the shoot/branch tips.
- **Raspberries:** Primocane burning is starting. However the florican buds are still barely growing. Last of the new plantings are finishing up.
- **Strawberries:** We're renovating and fertilizing strawberries. Easier this year because there aren't many leaves to catch the fertilizer.

Willamette Valley, Oregon (4/17/09):

- **Blueberries:** We're finally getting the bloom started with Patriots and Earliblue moving past 10%. Rubel, Duke, Brigitta and Legacy should be there soon, depending on valley location. About time. Now we need to have a good pollination window. Not much cold damage showing. Crop looks in good shape right now.
- **Marionberries:** We continue to be about two weeks behind "normal" in development. Budbreak is very uneven, buds ranging from 1/4 inch to 3 inches. The unevenness is possibly due to the cool weather but possibly winter damage from the December cold spell. Nothing obviously wrong with the short buds (besides their length), growing point is healthy. The coming warm weather will give a better indication.
- **Raspberries:** Primocane burning is going on. New growth is starting to green up with the warmer weather.
- **Strawberries:** We've seen a lot of growth this week. Greening up and expanding fruit trusses and a flower here and there. Some cold damage from the early December cold is showing up. Mostly in newer fields that were still pretty 'soft' at that point. Looks like a mid-June start to the processed fruit harvest right now. That late a start usually means a short season.

Industry news

- **USDA seeks comments on establishing new processed raspberry promotion, research and information order:** [Click here](#)
- **Impacts of budget reductions on Oregon State Extension Service:** [Click here](#) for the College of Agriculture website with some excellent background material.
- **Food safety, one Pistachio at a time:** [Click here](#) (4/14/09, New York Times Editorial)
- **Organic berries shine even in a recession:** [Click here](#) (4/13/09, The Packer)

New Pest Information

Insects

- **Clay Colored Weevil, northern raspberries/blueberries:** (from British Columbia, 4/20) Clay coloured weevils are out and feeding on buds and some weevil sprays have been done. Actually I've noticed weevil feeding on numerous blueberry fields as well so these should be checked and treatments determined.
- **Strawberry Crown Moth, southern strawberries:** Larvae are now being recovered from the crowns of strawberry plants in some SW Washington fields.
- **Root Weevils, southern strawberries:** Larvae of [Black Vine](#), [Rough Strawberry](#), [Strawberry](#) root weevils are now being recovered from some strawberry fields. A couple of pupae have also been found. In one field adults of both **Clay colored** and **Raucous root weevil:** (*Otiorhynchus raucous*) have also been identified and early treatments for their control are being done.
- **Aphids/Scorch Virus: northern blueberries:** Pre bloom aphid control is strongly recommended in blueberry fields infected with or in close proximity to fields infected with [Scorch virus](#). **This disease is most prevalent in B.C.**
- **Blueberry Gall Midge, southern blueberries:** The first Gall Midge feeding symptoms have been found this week in a SW Washington blueberry field. This is about the time when the first generation of adults should be emerging from the soil.

Diseases

- **Sooty blotch, northern blueberries:** This is a disease/condition I hadn't heard of before. It's been reported in British Columbia. [Click here](#) for photos and information on the Michigan State blueberry website. It doesn't appear to be a serious condition in blueberries.
- **Shock virus, southern blueberries:** The collapse of newly emerging buds, both vegetative and floral, caused by Shock virus is now being seen in many varieties in the south.
- **Raspberry Bushy Dwarf virus, Marionberries:** The yellow leaf symptom of this virus in Marionberries is just beginning to be seen.
- **Tomato Ringspot virus, southern raspberries:** The typical light green chevron pattern of this virus is also beginning to be picked up on new growth.
- **Downey Mildew, boysenberries & Kotata blackberries (occasionally other blackberries):** This is a systemic disease that only displays symptoms if environmental conditions are right in the spring. It can cause major losses due to misshapen, deformed berries. A distinctive red leaf pattern is also diagnostic of the disease. Phosphite applications in the spring are recommended to prevent outbreaks.

Ongoing Pest Information

Diseases

- **Disease Alert: [Blackberry Rust](#)** (Phragmidium Rust) **evergreen blackberries**
- **Disease Alert: [Pseudomonas \(Bacterial Blight\)](#)** **blueberries:**
- **[Phytophthora Root Rot](#)** **raspberries..**

- [Purple Blotch](#) blackberries.
- [Cane Blight](#) raspberries.

Insects

- [Redberry Mite](#) evergreen blackberries.

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 and treat as needed.
- Apply pre-bloom aphid control as needed.
- Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to confirm.
- Make preparations to bring in bees around 10% bloom.
- Plan to apply fungicide for fruit mold control at 10% bloom.

Blackberries

- Scout for purple blotch lesions.
- Burn back primocanes as needed.
- Can apply phosphite material for Downey mildew prevention.
- Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to confirm.

Evergreen Blackberries

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

Raspberries

- (northern areas) Scout for clay colored weevil.
- Can apply phosphite material for root rot control.
- Can burn back primocanes as needed.
- Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to confirm.

Strawberries

- As plants start growing, check weak areas for root weevil larvae, strawberry crown borers and/or root disease problems.
- Till row centers.
- Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to confirm.
- Can apply phosphite material for root rot control.
- Can apply slug bait.