

Cranberry IPM Bulletin

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Please note: The following recommendations are based on field monitoring data from cranberry fields in all regions in British Columbia. Not all recommendations listed in this newsletter are applicable to all fields. Each cranberry field has unique insects and diseases. Field monitoring is strongly recommended before making any pest management decisions.

Plant Development

Fields are quite varied in development within regions and even farms. Early varieties are further ahead as well as most newer plantings. Bud swell is the most common plant stage we are seeing right now but there are still a lot of tight buds out there.

Fireworm

Fireworm are starting to hatch at very low levels. Most fields where newly hatched fireworm are being observed are in new plantings and fields with prior infestation issues. No fields have reached threshold and no sprays have been recommended at this point. Larvae found are very small, a hand lens is almost necessary to see the larvae. Focus taking samples on the very edge of the field close to any ditches, the reflection off the water can make the edges progress faster than the rest of the field. Using the tip of a mechanical pencil to search the bud is recommended as buds are still tight and fireworm are small and hard to see. When timing is right to apply an insecticide keep spring conditions in mind when picking a product; spring precipitation, and frost protection can affect the efficacy of spray applications.



Rose Bloom

This fungal disease is just starting to develop in some fields. Most farms do not need to treat for this, however if pressure is high enough, field-wide or localized, a fungicide treatment may be warranted. Treatment should be applied when rose bloom starts to sporulate, if done before this it will not be effective.



Always consult your marketing agency for information on MRLs and pesticide products for various markets before applying pesticides.

Region (all weather data collected from farmwest.com)	Rainfall in mm (Jan 1 st – May 1 st , 2023)	Rainfall in mm (Jan 1 st – May 1 st , 2022)
Pitt Meadows	577 mm	722 mm
Richmond	332 mm	444 mm
Delta	345 mm	457 mm
Abbotsford	418 mm	550 mm
Comox	385 mm	438 mm

Precipitation

As always, precipitation varies from region to region in British Columbia. The amount of precipitation compared to last year is significantly lower with most regions having over 100mm less rain fall compared to 2022.

Growing Degree Days

As of May 1st, the GDD are marginally ahead of last year and behind the 31-year average. Looking at 2021, 2022 and 2023 the numbers are quite close.

Growing Degree Days Based on YVR (Vancouver Airport)

	2023	2022	2021	31 year average
January 31st	165.7	130.5	164.5	129.19
February 28th	289.3	255.4	221.9	262.67
March 31st	366.05	352.2	362.6	361.85
April 30th	725.45	717.85	746.4	762.96

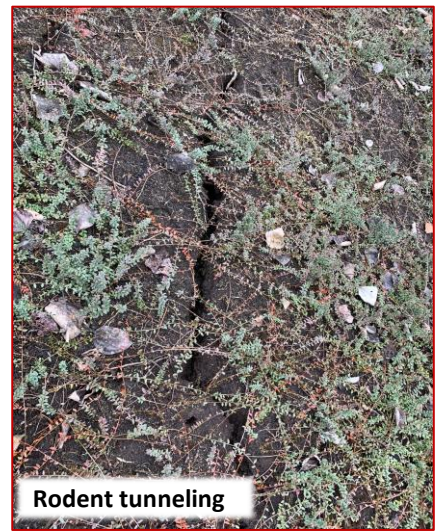
Frost Protection

So far this season our overnights have been fairly mild in temperature with very few frost events. Over the next couple of weeks keeping sensors in the field and in the right temperature range is crucial to avoid frost damage to the sensitive buds. Raising the temperature threshold slightly as the season goes on will provide protection, one frost event can be economically devastating to your crop. Frost can and will still occur in late May and even June, note the picture below with frost damage to the flowers.



Rodents

Damage from rodents and other mammals is generally overlooked but can be quite problematic. Rodents will tunnel underneath vines and use plant material for nests. Another issue that has been noted is holes from larger animals such as coyotes, dogs, and bears trying to dig for the rodents. Bait stations and traps can be placed around the fields, around plant materials such as vine piles, and around farm buildings. Keeping the exteriors of buildings clear of debris can help by taking away coverage and places to nest.



Rodent tunneling

Recommendations

- Monitor for fireworm. If fireworm are found in more than 50% of samples taken throughout the field, apply a registered insecticide. Keep spring conditions in mind when choosing an insecticide.
- In fields with a history of cottonball, apply a fungicide when most of the field is in bud break stage. If infection levels are high, a second application can be done 10- 14 days later.
- If there is history of upright dieback in a field, apply a preventative fungicide at bud elongation to prevent further damage.
- Monitor for rose bloom. Spray fungicide when it begins to sporulate. If it is localized, you can spot treat using a backpack sprayer.
- Monitor for new rodent damage. Set up trap stations in areas around the fields where rodents would frequent such as burn piles, other plants, around buildings and shops.
- Keep frost protection detectors in fields and adjust to the changing weather accordingly.

The above recommendations are based on the BC Berries Production Guide and/or local IPM monitoring experience. Always consult your marketing agency for information on MRLs for various markets before applying pesticides.



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