

# Berry News

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 1

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## Spring Berry "To Do" List

### —Blueberries—

- **Blueberry buds are swelling in all areas south of Albany.** I expect that bud swell will move very quickly with just a bit of warmth. Outer bud scales have been burned in some plantings, but I haven't seen any indication of wide spread winter damage to buds – but have seen an average amount of tip burn on young shoots.

**Apply early season herbicides** – see article in this issue.

- **Finish pruning mature bushes**
- **Scout for mummyberry disease** –Mummyberries look like tiny black pumpkins. They can be on the ground or still hanging on the plant. If you saw mummyberry strikes last year, then you should plan to spray for this disease as buds break, but



**Mummyberry apothecia are forming now in mulch below bushes. Rake mulch surface or add more mulch to disrupt fruiting and discourage disease progression.**

*Photo courtesy of C. Heidenreich*

physically disrupting the soil will help as will a dormant spray of lime sulfur. Ground sprays of urea have been shown to burn the developing apothecia as well.

- **Remove dead canes and look for evidence of canker.** Canker diseases can be controlled with copper, Quilt, Quash, Pristine or lime-sulfur sprays before bud-break.

- **Look for scale insects.** Dormant oil will help control

them as will Brigade, Triple Crown or Esteem when used as crawlers appear in early spring.

- **Inspect for Insect Stem Gall** – not a huge problem, but in specific instances has

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become a challenge especially in young plantings. Look for large bulbous galls formed on the stems, often near the terminals. These are caused by the larvae of a tiny flightless wasp. The adults overwinter in the galls, emerge in early June, and crawl or hop to other stems to deposit eggs. Prune out the galls to control.

- **Apply sulfur if soil pH is higher than 5.2** – 200#/A is the maintenance rate that should be applied 1-2 times annually to prevent soil pH from creeping up. Remember that the target pH is 4.5.
- **Review past years foliar nutrient recommendations** and make sure your fertility plan is in line. If you have never done foliar sampling, add a reminder to your phone that this should be done in early August.

### —Strawberries—

- **Apply early season herbicides** - see article in this issue.
- **Remove straw from June bearing strawberries as soon as possible.** The delayed spring has resulted in berry plantings with winter straw mulch still in place. Studies have shown that delaying the removal of straw mulch results in a yield decrease of as much as 27% mostly in terms of total berry numbers, not individual berry size. The decrease in loss caused by delay of straw mulch removal can be as much as the loss caused by winter injury if you had never mulched them at all. Work done by Marvin Pritts (Pritts, M. P., K. A. Worden and M. Eames-Sheavly. 1988. *Rowcover material and time of application and removal affect ripening and yield of strawberry.* Jour. Amer. Soc. Hort. Sci. 114:531-536) indicated that the best results were from treatments where the straw mulch was applied later in the winter (Dec. to February!) and then removed at the earliest possible time – in the case of this study at the end of February. This consistently resulted in the best winter survival and best overall productivity likely because it allowed plants to get

access to light early.

- **Plan for frost protection** – inspect irrigation equipment and row cover. Make sure you have some type of adequate temperature detection system at the field level. *More on this in next issue.*

### —Brambles—

- **Brambles are still dormant** in all places that I've been although, like blueberries, things will change quickly when we get some sustained warmth. Blackberry fruiting may be limited to those plantings that are protected or wintered by using a cross arm trellis.
- **Complete the necessary pruning:** After you finish blueberry pruning you can begin with brambles. Remember to keep cane density at no more than 4 canes per square foot. There may be some winter injury so look for that and prune it out.
- **Apply early season herbicides** - see article in this issue.
- **Look for disease or insect issues as you prune.**

### —Ribes—

- **Some spring freeze injury noted in Ribes.** Hopefully there won't be a significant loss but it's difficult to tell on the strigs at this point.
- **Prune bushes now** – gooseberries and currants do well if 4-5 year old wood is removed. Canes should be removed from the crown.
- **Inspect for pest issues while pruning.**
- **Apply early spring herbicides as indicated for bush berries.**



2018  
Cornell Pest Management  
Guidelines for Berry Crops

Cornell Cooperative Extension

## The New 2018 Cornell Pest Management Guidelines are now available for purchase!

Commodities include: Berry Crops, Vegetables, Tree Fruit, and Grapes. Field Crops and Greenhouse Crops/Ornamentals are also available.

Please contact Abby Henderson at 518-746-2553, or [aef225@cornell.edu](mailto:aef225@cornell.edu) if you would like to place an order!



## Early Season Weed Control

Laura McDermott, CCE ENYCHP

First, make sure to understand the nomenclature when reading herbicide labels. Bushberries include blueberries, currants, gooseberries – all those multi-stem shrubs. Caneberries are brambles. Elderberries may be in the category of bushberry, as are Juneberries, but err on the side of caution.

### Bushberries and Caneberries

One of the earliest herbicides that can be used is Casoron. Casoron has two different formulations: Casoron 4G (granular) can be used in bushberries, caneberries, and cranberries. The granular material should be applied before May 1st but the earlier the better. If you are applying it in April, make sure to apply before soil temperatures exceed 45 degree F and before any annual weed seeds germinate. Casoron CS (not labeled for Ribes) can be applied a bit later but still needs to be incorporated by rainfall before weed germination; it is labeled for 1 year old blueberries, as well as blackberry and raspberries if applied before new shoot emergence. Casoron controls annual grasses and broadleaves, as well as some perennial grasses. Follow Casoron with a post-emergent such as paraquat to kill pre emerged weeds or apply glyphosate when weeds are actively growing.

Another pre-emergent is Surflan. Again there are two formulations. Surflan AS can be used in non-bearing and bearing brambles at a rate of 20-40 gallons per acre. To broaden the spectrum of weed control, tank mix Gramaxone, Princep or Solicam. Irrigate product in to activate material. Surflan XL 2G can only be applied to non-bearing brambles.

Princep, Devrinol, Axex, Solicam or Sinbar can all be applied for pre-emergent weed control in brambles and blueberries. These herbicides generally do not do a great job on all weeds and need to be evaluated as to your weed population and which tool makes the most sense.

Sandea and Velpar are two products that are only labeled for blueberries. They can both be applied in early spring although Sandea's real strength is that it controls nutsedge. This can only be accomplished as a post-emergent directed spray.

Velpar can be applied to bushes that are 3 years or older. It should be applied before the foliage on the lower limbs break bud. Effects of Velpar L vary from one soil type to another. I've seen growers use Velpar to control annual weeds, but it also has some effect on perennial weeds.

### Strawberries

Late winter or early spring after winter annual broadleaf weeds have broken dormancy, but before strawberries begin to grow, is a key time for herbicide application. Apply 2,4-D amine, Formula 40 or other labeled 2,4-D formulations, in late winter or early spring to control emerged winter annual broadleaf weeds. Add Chateau to provide residual annual broadleaf weed control. Use 1 quart of Formula 40 per acre and 3 dry ounces of Chateau after the soil is no longer frozen but before strawberries break dormancy and begin to grow. Chateau can be used once in each calendar year. If Chateau was used in the late fall of 2013, Chateau can be reapplied in the March or early April but not used again in the calendar year. The crop will "out-grow" small application injury that may occur, but do NOT apply after the crop has broken dormancy and begun to grow or lasting injury may result.

Note the pre-harvest interval (PHI) for Sinbar use in strawberries is 110 days. This effectively eliminates late winter and early spring applications of Sinbar to strawberries before harvest. A typical strawberry field grown using the matted row system begins to bloom about May 1st and harvest begins in late May or early June. The cut-off date for the 110 day PHI would be sometime in February and has already passed.



## For Your Information

### SIVANTO Prime Insecticide approved for use in Berry Crops

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) recently approved the registration of SIVANTO prime insecticide (EPA Reg. No. 264-1141), which contains the active ingredient flupyradifurone. This is the first product registered in New York State containing this active ingredient.

This material can be used to control thrips, blueberry maggot, aphids, whiteflies among others.

SIVANTO prime is registered for use on a variety of crops including alfalfa, cereal grains (including corn and small grains), clover, hops, **bushberry, caneberry**, low growing berries, pome and stone fruit, **small fruit – vine climbing (examples: grapes, gooseberries)**, tree nuts, and vegetables (brassica leafy, cucurbit, fruiting, leafy, legume, root, and tuberous/corm).

### SIVANTO prime has the following restrictions in NYS:

- Restricted-use pesticide.
- Use in Nassau and Suffolk Counties is prohibited except as permitted under Special Local Needs registration. (Currently there are no Special Local Needs registrations.)
- NY-specific restricted-entry intervals (REIs) of 4 hours for all listed crops except grapes. Grape REI is 12 hours.
- No aerial application.

A copy of the approved label can be found at the [NYSDEC's product registration website](#).

### Soon-to-Open Restaurant Seeks local Food Producers

*Executive chef Jonathan Studley is looking to meet farmers interested in selling to a soon to open restaurant. He is looking to connect with fresh produce farmers and meat producers. If you want to talk or meet him, please email [chefstudley@gmail.com](mailto:chefstudley@gmail.com)*

## New Technicians Join ENYCHP!

We are pleased to welcome Natasha Field and Andy Galimberti to Cornell Cooperative Extension and Eastern NY. Andy is working out of the Clinton County office and Natasha will be working out of the Washington County office. Don't hesitate to introduce yourself at a meeting or when they visit.



### Andy Galimberti

I came to Cornell from Michigan; I grew up in Ann Arbor and went to school at Kalamazoo College, where I studied biology. After graduating, I worked a few jobs which developed my interest in agriculture. As a research assistant at Michigan State, I helped with projects ranging from pest management in celery to soil health in corn and other crops. I also worked as a scout for several local

greenhouses, inspecting plants for pests and diseases to help growers manage their pest issues. After that, I wanted to learn more about the subject, so I went to the University of Maine to get

my master's in entomology. At Maine, I studied pest management in potato. I started as a field technician at Cornell Cooperative Extension at the beginning of March. I'm looking forward to getting out in the field and working with a bunch of different crops!

### Natasha Field

I grew up on a small berry and agritourism farm in Wyoming County, PA. I went to Penn State for my bachelors in AgriBusiness Management and worked for Willard Agri-Service in Maryland after graduation. At Willard, I was a sales support person with a specialization in fruits and vegetables, scouting and sampling throughout the season. I also wrote MD and DE nutrient management plans, scouted agronomic crops and did data analysis for the growers. I'm very excited to work for Cornell Cooperative Extension as a Technician to get a hands on, ground level view of the agriculture industry in the region. I can't wait to learn about all the exciting work being done by the farmers in the area and be a part of it!





**FYI-**

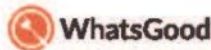
This free marketing resource is now available to all NYS Growers!



**Sell directly to your customers for free.**

No credit card fees, no transaction fees.

FreshFoodNY is powered by WhatsGood, an online marketplace that connects buyers with local farmers, fishermen and artisans. The platform helps you organize your retail and wholesale operations in one location. Though you will manage your profile through WhatsGood, your customers will access your business through the FreshFoodNY app.

**PURVEYORS****BUYERS**

Sign up online at [sourcewhatsgood.com](https://sourcewhatsgood.com) or download the **WhatsGood Marketplace app** for iOS or Android.

**1****Create a business profile**

- Add your business info so customers can learn about your operation.

**2****Add a payment account**

- Link your bank account so you can accept payment directly from customers.

**3****Add your seasonal product offerings**

- List both wholesale and retail inventory with compelling product photos.
- Plan ahead, pause and activate product offerings to reflect seasonality and availability.

**4****Sell your products**

- Connect with new buyers in your area.
- Communicate your pickup or delivery options, like your local farmers market.
- Message directly with buyers.
- Encourage your customers to pre-order from you on the FreshFoodNY app!

**Questions?**

We're here to help! Reach out to our support team through the chat feature on our website, or visit our FAQs through the drop down menu in the upper right hand corner of your profile.

## Calendar of Events

### April 13, 20 & 27, Farm Law Focus Sessions – Free Webinars

12:00 noon Central Daylight Time (1:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time)

Admission and attendance to these webinars is free, and you can register at the provided links.

- April 13 - Business Entities, Sales Agreements and Employment Law. <https://farmcommons.org/farm-law-focus-session-business-structures-sales-employment>
- April 20 - Insurance, Food Safety Liability. <https://farmcommons.org/farm-law-focus-session-liability-insurance-and-food-safety-updates>
- April 27 - Agritourism, Value-Added Production, Land Matters. <https://farmcommons.org/farm-law-focus-session-land-events-and-value-added-production>.

### April 21, 2018, Adult Tractor Workshop

Hudson River Tractor, 2173 New York 203, Chatham, NY 12037

9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

The cost of the workshop is \$5 in advance and \$10 the day of the workshop. You can register online at [https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/Adult Tract Oper 201](https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/Adult_Tract_Oper_201).

To register by phone, 518-765-3518.

This workshop is for those who have recently purchased a tractor and would like to know more about how to operate it, or those who would like to brush up on operating a tractor. During the workshop, you will get some “hands on” practice to learn how about: the maintenance of tractors and other implements and how to operate them safely.

### May 5, 2018, Mushroom Growing Workshop

Lovejoy Building, 25 East Main Street, Cambridge, NY 12816 (The red two-story structure located behind Hubbard Hall.) Parking is available in the Village Parking Lot on Washington Street, behind Hubbard Hall. 2:00 – 5:00 PM

Registration at ASA website: <http://www.agstewardship.org> or call the ASA office at 518-692-7285. \$15.00 fee for this hands-on workshop. Each participant will bring home an inoculated log.

Most of us are familiar with the white button, crimini and portabello mushrooms which are now widely available in grocery stores, but there are other kinds of tasty mushrooms that you can grow at home, or for income generation. This workshop will introduce you to cultivation of shiitake, oyster, lion’s mane and wine cap stropharia mushrooms. The emphasis will be on shiitake which are grown on fresh cut logs. During the hands-on workshop you will inoculate a log to take home, and learn the how, when and where of shiitake mushroom cultivation.

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