

These updates were originally conceived by Dr. Dalphy Harteveld and will be updated during 2018 by Dr. Maria Fairbank, Associate in Research at WSU Mount Vernon Research and Extension Center. The research focuses on the epidemiology and control of fungal diseases of highbush blueberry in the Pacific Northwest. This weekly "Mummy Berry Update" provides information on the timing of apothecia (mushrooms) development from mummified overwintering berries (mummies) in four Washington counties (Skagit, Whatcom, Snohomish, and Island). The apothecia produce infectious ascospores that infect emerging flower and leaf buds (Figure 1). The first two tables show the average percentages of floral and vegetative buds at different developmental stages of cultivars in each county and indicate when susceptible tissue is available on the plants. The third table shows the different developmental stages of apothecial development from mummies and the emergence of ascospores (when cups of the mushrooms are more than 2 mm open). This information is provided to help the timing of disease management practices and to control mummy berry. Development of mummies and host reflect conditions occurring in the four fields that we are currently monitoring and may be different from stages of development in other blueberry fields in these same counties, in different counties, or for different blueberry cultivars.

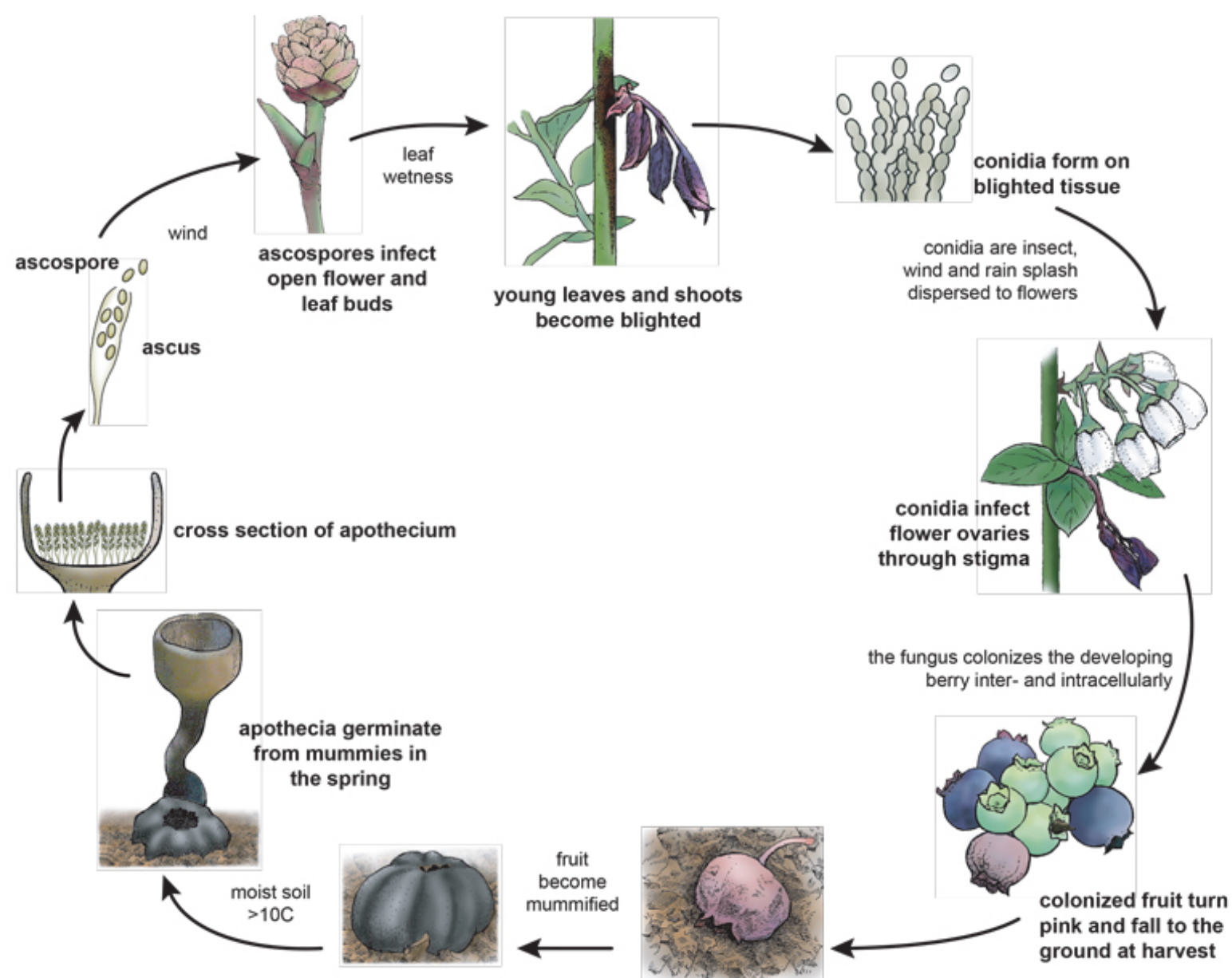





Figure 1: Disease cycle of mummy berry of blueberry. Annemiek Schilder, Michigan State University

Floral Buds						
		Bud swell	Bud burst	Tight cluster	Early pink	Late pink
Whatcom	Mixed	0%	1%	10%	51%	38%
Island	Aurora	7%	32%	61%	0%	0%
Percentages represent one field per cultivar per county. Red indicates a susceptible stage for infection.						

Vegetative Buds					
		Bud swell	Early green	Late green	Unfolding
Whatcom	Mixed	0%	0%	11%	89%
Island	Aurora	0%	9%	18%	73%
Percentages represent one field per cultivar per county. Red indicates a susceptible stage for infection.					

Apothecia						
	Dormant	Germination	Emergence	Differentiation	Sporulation	Finished
Whatcom	88%	0%	0%	0%	0%	12%
Island	63%	0%	4%	21%	11%	0%
Percentages of mummies at each stage out of 80 - 90 mummies per field location. Red indicates release of ascospores.						