

# Small Fruit Update



Disseminating information for the [Washington Red Raspberry Commission](#) and the [Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission](#)

## May 5, 2003

Usually right now we've got rust showing up in raspberries in the South but so far this looks like a very **light rust year**. Not finding much out there. Mite populations also seem down which would be expected with the wet weather. Saw the first raspberry bloom this week.

**Some observations on the Southern blackberry crops:** **Silvans** are just starting bloom. **Marions** and **Boysens** aren't blooming yet with spurs 4-8" long. Conditions of fields are variable. A few fields are showing major damage that's being attributed to cold temperatures in February. Cane diseases could also be a factor. Other fields are looking great.

**Blackcaps** have a fair number of poor looking fields. Cool, damp conditions may be exacerbating virus infections.

**Strawberry bloom** in the Willamette Valley and Southwest Washington is on average around 20%. No bloom yet in Whatcom County. **Blueberries** are just starting bloom in the North.

There's a **new small fruit horticulturist** on board at the Northwest Center For Small Fruit Research in Corvallis. His name is **David Bryla**. David has a background in crop water use and is already working on a large scale blueberry project. His phone number is 541-738-4094 and email is [brylad@onid.orst.edu](mailto:brylad@onid.orst.edu). Welcome, David—we can use all the help we can get these days...

**Interesting Website:** The USDA's **Agricultural Marketing Service** has a lot of information on commodity grading standards, country of origin labeling, marketing news, and marketing orders on their website at: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/fv/>.

## Insect Update

- 1) Raspberry Fruitworm:** Dr. Lynell Tanigoshi picked up some adult fruitworm in Eastern Clark County this week. This is the first time the fruitworm traps have been used in the South and only verifies their presence in this region. We still need to determine whether they're at economically damaging levels. ([Click here for picture](#)). If you don't have traps, a beating tray works pretty well to check for their presence.
- 2) Aphids:** Early season aphid control can be necessary in situations where they can **vector viruses**. These include blueberry fields infected with or in close proximity to **blueberry scorch virus** and virus susceptible strawberry varieties such as **Hood**.
- 3) Clay colored root weevil adults** are present in some northern raspberry fields. Scout for feeding damage on emerging buds.
- 4) So far most of the root weevil larvae** being collected in the South are small size and are most likely **Rough Strawberry Root Weevil**.
- 5) Two spotted mites** and some **McDaniel mites** are present at low levels in some raspberry fields.

## Disease Update:

- 1) Rust** is visible in raspberries in the south. The present spore stages ([click here for picture](#)) don't require treatment.
- 2) Cane blight** symptoms in raspberries can also be found fairly easily at this time. Dead canes or canes with buds dead on one side could be caused by cane blight. Check for bright orange streaks coming up from last year's catcher plate wounds. Recommended treatment to prevent its spread is a fungicide application right after harvest before the wounds heal up.
- 3) This wet season has increased the risk of root rot** in all small fruit crops. Stay on top of the foliar fungicide applications (like Fosphite and Aliette).
- 4) Tomato Ringspot Virus:** A chevron pattern on some raspberry leaves infected with Tomato Ringspot Virus is appearing in the South. This is the only time of year this symptom is visible. ([Click here for picture](#)).
- 5) Mummyberry** in blueberries: Protective fungicide applications should be applied now if mummyberry has been a problem.

**6) Shock and Scorch virus** symptoms are showing up in blueberry fields in all regions. The newly developing buds suddenly turn black and die. With **Shock**, infected plants recover but produce no crop for a year. No treatments are available. **Scorch** virus looks very similar to Shock but isn't nearly as common. It is however, much more serious since plants don't recover and **should be immediately removed** to help prevent spread. If you suspect your field has a virus but are unsure, you can call Bob Martin, the USDA small fruit virologist to arrange for testing. 541-738-4041. ([Click here for pictures of shock and scorch viruses](#)).

**Cropwork:**

**Caneberries:** 1) Fertilizer can be applied. 2) Plan for primocane control --timing depends on material or method used. 3) Scout for rust. 3) Put out pheromone traps for leafrollers. 4) Scout for raspberry fruitworm in the north.

**Blueberries:** 1) Can apply fungicide for preventing fruit mold if bloom is opening. 2) Can treat for mummyberry. 3) Fertilizer can be applied. 4) Plan to bring in bees at 10% bloom. 5) Scout for aphids in fields having or close to fields having blueberry scorch virus. 6) Scout for Shock and Scorch virus symptoms.

**Strawberries:** 1) Can apply fungicide for preventing fruit mold if bloom is opening 2) Scout weak areas for presence of weevil larvae or strawberry crown moth. 3) Scout for cyclamen mites. 4) Scout for two-spotted mites. 5) Scout for low levels of aphids in virus susceptible varieties (like Hoods). 6) Can apply Fosphite or Aliette (or equivalent) for root rot.

**All Crops:** Control existing weeds.

**Chemical Update**

1) Strawberry fruit mold control options this year include **Switch, Elevate, Thiram** and **Captan**. The first application is recommended to go on at 10% bloom. Alternate or tank mix materials to avoid resistance and ensure control of a broad spectrum of fungal diseases.

2) Fruit mold control fungicide options in blueberries include **Elevate, Switch, Rovral**, and **Captan**.

**Weather for the week:**

**(South):** Unsettled. Some dry, some showers. Lows around 40, highs around 60.

**(North):** A little drier than the South, but still some showers. Lows around 40, highs around 60.

**Calendar:**

**May 14 Oregon Strawberry Commission Meeting** at Alessandro's restaurant in Salem 5:30 pm. Call 541-758-4043 or [e-mail](#) for information.

**May 29 - 31 Food Alliance** is one of 45 non-profit and government agencies collaborating to present **The Sustainability Forum** in Portland. The Forum will take place at the Hilton Portland and Executive Tower. Call (503) 222-7041 for more information.

**June 10 Puyallup Strawberry Field Day**, WSU Puyallup Farm 5, 3:00-5:00 pm.

**July 10, Puyallup Raspberry Field Day**, WSU Puyallup Farm 5, 3:00-5:00 pm.

**July 24, Mt Vernon Small Fruit Field Day**, WSU Mt. Vernon, 3:00-5:00 pm.

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