

# Small Fruit Update



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

**June 16, 2003**

**Strawberries:** The record breaking heat has affected the southern crop in a number of ways: Yields and fruit size are down, more soft fruit, and the season has been compacted. Plants with weakened root systems collapsed in the field. Labor availability has also limited some growers. Second pickings have started in some fields. In the North, the first cannery pick will be this week.

**Raspberries:** Some fresh market picking started last week in the South. The heat brought out a lot of bloom, meaning a more compact harvest season. First pick of Willamettes in the North should be around June 29<sup>th</sup> (4-7 days ahead of last year). Meekers in the North are over 50% bloom, in the South around 80% bloom.

**Blackberries:** **Silvans** have started to color. Growers in Marion county should begin harvesting about June 24-25.

**Marions:** "king" berries are also coloring (pretty early). Dry conditions during bloom have allowed for a good fruit set. Heat caused a compacted bloom—should be a fairly fast harvest. **Boysens:** Crop is looking weak, not a lot of foliage in many fields.

**Blueberries:** Bloom is done in most northern fields.

**Blueberry fertilizer guide:** Attached to this update is a list of guidelines for blueberries put together by OSU Drs. Wei Yang, Bernadine Strik, and John Hart. It has some very important information for anyone growing blueberries. Take a look at it.

## Insect Update

**1) Orange tortrix leafrollers:** This is a critical time for leafroller control in southern caneberries. The orange tortrix hatch that causes most of our contaminant problems in the South has started. *Bacillus thuringiensis* or a spinosad formulation (Success) can be applied while bees are still in the field. Only use Success while bees are not flying (at night). Early treatments are more effective than later. But be sure to scout the field first for larvae before spending all that money on a Bt application.

**2) Strawberry Crown Moth:** Last year they were found at damaging levels in strawberries and blackberries. Consistent adult flight hasn't begun yet in Clark county. Here's a brief primer on SCM.

Life cycle: The moth overwinters as a dormant larva in the crown or roots of strawberry plants. Pupation occurs from May through July and the adult moths fly from June through July. Eggs are laid singly on the plants and larvae emerge 10-14 days later and feed on the crown and roots through the fall. There's one generation per year and four to six larval instars.

Control strategy: Pheromone lures are available to monitor adult emergence. The first insecticide application should be made 10-14 days after consistent adult emergence begins (sometime in June). Consistent emergence is when two to three adults are caught in traps on two or more consecutive days. A second application should be made two weeks later.

Registered Chemicals: Guthion (azinphos-methyl) and Thiodan (endosulfan) are labeled for the above sprays. Lorsban can also be applied immediately after harvest (top plants before application).

Control problems: 1) Treatments often need to occur during harvest. 2) SCM adults have a long flight period. 3) Once inside the strawberry crown, the larvae are very difficult to kill.

**3) Weevils:** Black Vine and Rough Strawberry Root Weevil adults are present in many strawberry and raspberry fields. You've got about 30 days to control the adults after they emerge before they begin laying eggs. Check for notched leaves that indicate weevil feeding. Beating trays can be used to sample for adult weevils in caneberry fields. Rough strawberry like to stay down in the crown area so dig around to find them.

**4) Raspberry Fruitworm:** Raspberry beetles (fruitworm) have passed peak flight and trap numbers are dropping. Larvae are beginning to develop in the fruit. Fields that were treated with diazinon earlier appear to have suppression of beetles. ([Click here for fruitworm picture](#)).

**5) OBLR larvae** in blueberries. If you had leafrollers as a contaminant in blueberries last year, scout for tied leaves and fruit now. Small OBLR larvae have begun feeding. Consider treating with *Bacillus thuringiensis*.

**6) OBLR leafroller adults:** OBLR trap counts are rising quickly. These are also being picked in the orange tortrix traps. They are not major southern caneberry crop in the contaminants and should not be included in OT trap counts.

**7) Spider mites:** Some raspberry fields in the North are being treated for high two spotted spider mite numbers. The hot weather strongly favors mite development. Populations are increasing in all areas.

**8) Black-headed fireworm:** It's time to scout cranberries for fireworm.

**9) Aphids:** Winged adults are being recovered.

**10) Symphylans:** A couple of strawberry and raspberry fields in Southwest Washington have been found to have economically damaging levels of symphylans. The damage resembles that of weevils or strawberry crown moth—weak or dying areas. The following PNW Handbook write up has pictures and detailed sampling information:

<http://pnwpest.org/pnw/insects?28RUST04.dat> .

#### Disease Update:

**1) Rust** is visible in raspberries. The warm dry weather and earlier fungicide applications have helped control it. It's not much of a factor at this point.

**2) Root rot/stress** symptoms are now very pronounced in caneberries and strawberries. The hot, dry conditions along with fruit set create major stress on the root systems.

**3) Shock and Scorch virus** symptoms are visible in many blueberry fields. 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. The following website is a great resource for Scorch Virus diagnosis and testing <http://whatcom.wsu.edu/ag/comhort/BISV.htm>.

4) If you've had problems with **Anthraxnose in blueberries** (orange colored spores show up on ripe fruit) preventative sprays are most effective from the end of bloom until harvest. **Abound (Azoxytrobin)** does a good job on it.

#### Cropwork:

**Caneberries:** 1) Fungicide can be applied for fruit mold control. 2) Scout for leafroller larvae. 3) Scout for raspberry fruitworm in the North. 4) Scout for weevil adults using a beating tray. 5) Scout for mites.

**Blueberries:** 1) Scout for aphids in fields having or close to fields having blueberry Scorch virus. 2) Scout for Shock and Scorch virus symptoms. 3) Scout for leafrollers and winter moth. 4) Scout for weevil feeding in the lower suckers. 5) Fertilizer can be applied. 6) Can apply anthracnose prevention sprays after bloom

**Strawberries:** 1) Can treat for weevils if needed. 2) Can apply fungicide for preventing fruit mold if bloom is still opening. 3) Scout weak areas for presence of symphylans, weevil larvae or strawberry crown moth. 4) Scout for cyclamen mites. 5) Scout for two-spotted mites. 6) Put out pheromone traps for strawberry crown moth.

**Cranberries:** 1) Scout for black-headed fireworm and treat with diazinon if needed. 2) Bring in bees.

#### Chemical control Update

**1) Success (spinosad)** now has a label for insect control in all berry crops. It can be used for **leafroller control** in caneberries. And has a one day PHI. The major precaution is to not spray it over foraging bees—it can be fatal. However, once dried it's fine with bees. So apply at night if bees are present.

2) The following website is a great resource for up to date pesticide labels: <http://www.cdms.net/pfa/LUpdateMsg.asp>

#### Weather for the week:

**(South):** Chance of showers from Wednesday on. Highs in the mid 80s today and tomorrow then dropping to around 70. Lows in the mid 50s.

**(North):** Chance of showers from Wednesday on. Highs in the 70s today and tomorrow then dropping into the 60s. Lows in the low 50s.

#### Calendar:

**June 27<sup>th</sup> BC Raspberry Field Day/Tour**, Abbotsford, BC 11 am. For more information contact Chaim Kempler ([kempler@agr.gc.ca](mailto:kempler@agr.gc.ca)) 604-796-2221 x 224

**June 27 & 28 Pacific Northwest Christmas Tree Association Summer Meeting and Farm Tour** A day of seminars at the Red Lion Hotel, Olympia, WA followed by a day of farm tours. Call 503-364-2942 for more information.

**July 9 OSU Caneberry Open House**, North Willamette R & E Station, Aurora 3-5 pm. Call the Station at 503-678-1264 x 0 for information.

**July 10, WSU Raspberry Field Day**, Puyallup Farm 5, 3:00-5:00 pm. For more information contact [Patrick Moore](mailto:Patrick.Moore@wsu.edu).

**July 16 OSU Blueberry Open House**, North Willamette R & E Station, Aurora 1:00-5:00 pm

**July 24, WSU Small Fruit Field Day**, Mt. Vernon Station, 3:00-5:00 pm. For more information contact [Patrick Moore](mailto:Patrick.Moore@wsu.edu).

**August 14 WSU Small Fruit Field Day**, Vancouver, WA Station, 1:00 - 4:00 pm. For more information contact Vicki Darnel at 360-576-6030.

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