



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

August 17, 2004

With the major small fruit harvests wrapping up there's not as much need to get this update out on a weekly basis so you'll be seeing it a little less often. Our thanks to the five commissions who underwrite part of the costs for it and to the industry contacts that share the information. Any feedback good, bad or ugly can be passed on to Anna at anna@peerbolt.com or 503-289-7287. It's important for us to hear from you. Suggestions?

Crop Updates

Blueberries: Harvest is on the downswing. Some soft fruit problems from heat.

Blackberries: Evergreen harvest is going on in the south. The heat has affected both quality and yields. Summer training of canes is in progress in the mid season varieties.

Website of the Week: [The Northwest Center for Small Fruits Research](#). The center administers a lot of federal research funds for our crops. Take a look at the various crop research priorities. The deadline for research proposals to the center is August 27.

Insect Update—Ongoing information

1) Blueberry Gall Midge: The larvae of this tiny midge feed on actively growing vegetative tips often causing them to die ([click here for pictures](#)). [Click here](#) for information gathered by Dr. Sheila Fitzpatrick in B.C. on the same species as it occurs on cranberries in British Columbia.

2) Mites: Now's the time to monitor for mite infestations in raspberries and strawberries. At Ag Central in Lynden, WA there is a mite-brushing machine and microscope for growers to use for counting spider mites as an aid in deciding when and if to treat for them. If you would like to use the equipment, please call Todd Murray at 676-6736 for information.

3) Aphids: Monitor strawberries for Aphids. They can vector viruses in susceptible varieties so economic thresholds can be very low.

4) Weevils: Black Vine and Rough Strawberry Root Weevil adults are present in many strawberry and raspberry fields.

5) Raspberry Crown Borers are now flying. Unfortunately we don't yet have a good pheromone lure for monitoring this flight. You can scout for crown borer damage by looking for weak stands with wilting canes. To see their larvae and damage [click here](#).

6) Black-headed fireworm: Continue to scout cranberries for black-headed fireworm.

7) Redberry mite infected berries are showing up in some late season blackberries. Berries never ripen but remain shiny brick red and hard. Mites feed within the fruit drupelets and are too small to be seen without a strong hand lens or scope. Treatment consists of preventative sulfur applications from budbreak through bloom.

Disease Update—Ongoing information

1) Mummyberry: Some infected berries are showing up in harvested fields; particularly fields that were too wet to be treated in the spring. [Click here](#) for pictures.

2) Powdery Mildew: Some strawberry fields in the south are showing significant powdery mildew infections.

3) Caneblight in raspberries: The window for treating raspberries for caneblight is immediately following harvest. Infection takes place by water splashing spores into the machine catcher plate wounds on the primocanes.

4) Spur blight foliar and cane damage is also now visible in some raspberry fields.

Cropwork

Raspberries: 1) Treat for cane blight if needed. 2) Scout for rust. 3) Scout for mites. 4) Can plant cover crop. 5) Can cane out if cane disease is a problem. 6) Can take annual tissue and/or soil tests. 7) Scout and mark problem weed areas that could be treated with Casoron or Kerb in the winter.

Blackberries: 1) Scout for mold and treat as needed. 2) Scout for redberry mite damage. 3) Can plant cover crop between rows. 4) Can cane out for summer training. 5) Can take annual tissue and/or soil test. 6) Scout and mark problem weed areas that could be treated with Casoron or Kerb in the winter.

Blueberries: Harvest ongoing 1) Scout for virus diseases. 2) Implement bird control strategies. 3) Scout for mummyberries. 4) Scout for aphids. 5) Scout for leafroller larvae in rolled up leaves. 6) Scout for weevils.

Strawberries: 1) Scout for root weevil and treat as needed. 2) Scout for two-spotted mites and cyclamen mites. 3) Scout for powdery mildew symptoms. 4) Scout for aphids. 5) Fertilize and water immediately following renovation. 6) Can take soil test on established fields.

Weather for the week

North (Whatcom County): Dry and cooler. Highs in the mid 70s. Lows in the 50s.

South (north Willamette Valley): Dry and cooler. Highs in the low 80s. Lows 55-60.

Calendar

August 18-20 — North American Strawberry Growers 2004 Summer Tour ~ Delta Quebec Hotel, Quebec City, Quebec, Canada. For more information, [email](#) or call Georgene Thompson 717-243-1349.

September 8 — Washington Red Raspberry Commission ~ 12 to 4pm at the WSU Mt. Vernon Research Station. For information call Henry Bierlink at 360-354-8767 or email at wardberry@verizon.net

September 22 — Oregon Strawberry Commission meeting ~ noon, Mt. Angel Brewery. [Email](#) or call 541-758-4043.

September 29 — Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission meeting ~ 6 pm, Holiday Inn, Wilsonville, OR. [Email](#) or call 541-758-4043.

October 11 — Washington Blueberry Commission meeting ~ Puyallup, WA. For more information, contact Dorothy Anderson 360-766-6150 or by [email](#).

Small Fruit Cold Storage Reports

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