

# Small Fruit Update



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

## August 31, 2004

What a difference a good August rainstorm makes! All areas got a great soaking. Some mold and splitting problems with the late season blueberries and blackberries but in general it's a really big plus.

### Cropwork (post harvest)

**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. 6) Can take tissue and/or soil tests. 7) Scout and mark problem weed areas that could be treated in the winter. 8) Fumigate for new plantings in spring.

**Blackberries:** 1) Can plant cover crop between rows. 2) Can cane out for summer training. 3) Can take tissue and/or soil test. 4) Scout and mark problem weed areas that could be treated in the winter.

**Blueberries:** 1) Scout for aphids. 2) Can take tissue and/or soil tests. 3) Scout for Blueberry Tip Midge. 4) Scout for weevil feeding on lower suckers.

**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.

### Commodity commission meetings in September:

**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 [waredberry@verizon.net](mailto:waredberry@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.

**Website of the Week:** [Samson Estates](#) in Lynden. Great berry wines as well as a Website soundtrack.

### 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:** Keep an eye out for mite infestations in raspberries and strawberries for the next couple of weeks. With the rains and lateness of the season, mite pressures are now subsiding. 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 for Aphids. They can vector viruses in susceptible varieties so economic thresholds can be very low.

**4) Weevils:** Root Weevil adults are present in many strawberry and raspberry fields. The next generation of larvae are also large enough to be recovered from infested sites.

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

**2) 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.

**Weather for the week**

**North** (Whatcom County): A chance of showers mid week. Highs around 70. Lows in the mid 50s.

**South** (north Willamette Valley): A slight chance of showers mid week. Highs climbing into the 80s. Lows in the mid 50s.

**Small Fruit Cold Storage Reports**

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