

Small Fruit Update



Disseminating information for:

Washington

[Washington Red Raspberry Commission](#)

[Washington Blueberry Commission](#)

[Washington Strawberry Commission](#)

Oregon

[Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission](#)

[Oregon Blueberry Commission](#)

[Oregon Strawberry Commission](#)

North American Small Fruit Organizations of Interest:

[North American Blueberry Council](#)

[U.S. Highbush Blueberry Association](#)

[North American Bramble Growers Association](#)

[North American Strawberry Growers Association](#)

[Weather Forecast](#) by Rufus La Lone.

[Small Fruit Cold Storage Reports](#)

May 17, 2005

All Blueberries: If your field is showing blight-type symptoms (flowers and/or foliage look like they're dying just as bloom happens), you can (and should) send in a sample for testing. Free! Call Dr. Bob Martin (USDA virologist) at (541) 738-4041 or [email](#) him for details.

Southern Blueberries: Crop is looking very good. Some of the Earliblues that started flowering back in that dry February are ahead. Most of the crop seems to be on a normal harvest schedule. We could see a heavier than normal mummyberry problem with the wet bloom season.

Northern Washington Blueberries: Reka's are very advanced with Dukes a little behind them.

B.C. Blueberries: Aren't seeing small berries like this time last year so fruit set looks good at this point.

All Raspberries: Fungal diseases are the main focus. [Root rot](#), [Rust](#), [Botrytis fruit rot](#) prevention. Good, vigorous growth in most fields. Wet areas and marginal planting sites are taking a hit this year....

Southern Raspberries: Bloom is past 10%. Most fields are showing good potential. Root rot symptoms are prevalent this year. Plantings could be more vulnerable to stress later on due to the frequent saturated soils this spring.

Northern Washington Raspberries: Willamette's hit 10% bloom last week. Meekers are a little behind them. Some raspberry beetle control applications of diazinon are being applied now just before the bees are brought in.

B.C. Raspberries: The bloom has started. Many fields look very good. Spotty damage in some areas that might be winter damage caused by nitrogen induced delayed dormancy.

Southern Blackberries: Marionberry bloom is just hitting 10%. First bloom sprays are going on.

Southern Strawberries: Bloom is almost finished in Totems. First ripe fruit is showing up in the fields. It's a big year for spittlebugs and slugs but there's not a strong market for them. Some dry weather for the start of harvest next week would be nice.

B.C. Strawberries: Past peak bloom for Totems. Fields look good. Aphid control to limit the spread of viruses continues to be concern. First commercial harvest should be in late May.

Industry Website of the Week: [Valley View Blueberries](#). This is [Vicki Duchesneau's](#) family farm located in Vancouver, Washington. Take a look at the great value added products list as well as her convenient online ordering system.

Strawberry Field Days:

1) **Oregon State's** happens Wednesday, June 1st, 2:00 pm at North Willamette Reseach & Extension Center, 15210 NE Miley Rd, Aurora OR. [Click here](#) for a PDF file of more information.

2) **Washington State's** is the next day, Thursday, June 2nd, 3:00-5:00 pm at the WSU Puyallup Farm 5. For more information contact Dr. Pat Moore by phone 253-445-4525 or [email](#).

New Pest Information (Click on the blue highlighted name for scouting, pictures and decision-making guide)

Insects:

1) **Weevils:** strawberries. Adult emergence of [Black Vine](#) and [Rough Strawberry](#) weevil species is now becoming more evident in the south with some Black Vine adults also reported in northern Washington.

2) **Raspberry beetle:** northern raspberries. Damage to the young growing tips is visible as several tiny holes in the leaf triplets caused by adult beetle feeding. Just before the bees come in is the traditional time to treat for raspberry beetles with diazinon.

3) **Clay colored weevil:** northern raspberries. Feeding damage is becoming heavier and more evident although spotty in raspberries in Northern Washington and B.C.

4) **Blueberry Gall Midge**: southern blueberries. We've had the first report of serious economic gall midge damage in Northwest blueberries. A planting of Maru (a rabbiteye variety) in the Willamette Valley lost a significant proportion of its fruit blossoms to gall midge feeding. This is a more common problem in the southeast U.S. plantings of rabbiteye. In our region, [Dr. Wei Yang](#), the OSU extension blueberry specialist is presently conducting a survey to determine the pest potential of this insect to our industry.

5) **Orange Tortrix Leafrollers**: Southern caneberries. Pheromone trap counts are climbing but virtually no larvae are present in the fields right now. Bt's and other controls targeted at larval control are not appropriate at this time.

Diseases:

Anthracnose: blueberries. Also called ripe rot (orange colored spores show up on ripe fruit). Our warm, wet conditions are prime for the development of anthracnose. Preventative sprays are most effective from the end of bloom until harvest. **Abound (Azoxystrobin)** does a good job on it.

Ongoing Seasonal Pest Information (Click on blue highlighted name for pictures, scouting and control information)

Insects/ Mites:

1) **Aphids**, blueberries. Our present weather conditions (mild and wet) are conducive to aphid build-ups. They can vector **Blueberry Scorch Virus** and should be closely monitored.

2) **Aphids**, strawberry. Early season aphid control could be necessary in situations where they **vector viruses**.

3) **Mites**: Low populations of mites are showing up in some **raspberry** and **strawberry** fields. Monitor closely when the weather turns warm and dry.

4) **Spittlebugs**, strawberries.

5) **Slugs**, strawberries.

Diseases:

1) **Virus in blueberries**: **Blueberry Shock virus** and **Scorch virus** symptoms visible in all regions

2) **Mummyberry**, blueberries.

3) **Rust changes**, raspberries. Spore stage is changing right now.

4) **Botrytis blight**, blueberries. [Click here for recent photos](#). Blossom and twig blight have emerged as serious problems in some fields this year.

5) **Phytophthora Root Rot**: Raspberries, Strawberries.

Chemical Control Update:

1) **British Columbia** has received an emergency registration for the use of **Spinosad** for the control of leafrollers in raspberries. It is toxic to foraging bees but can be applied at night and is bee safe once dried.

2) **Fruit mold control options** in caneberries include **Pristine**, **Elevate**, **Switch**, and Captan ([OR label](#) and [WA label](#)). **Pristine** has also shown good control of rust.

Cropwork:

All Crops: 1) Fertilizer applications. 2) Weed control.

Alternate Year blackberries: Can start training new canes in off year fields.

All Caneberries: 1) Get in bees at 10% bloom. 2) Can apply fungicide for fruit mold control starting at 10% bloom. 3) Control primocane growth as needed. 4) Can apply foliar Fosphite, Aliette or equivalent product for root rot control. 5) Can put out pheromone traps for leafrollers. 6) In the north, can put out traps for monitoring raspberry beetle. Treat as needed. 7) Scout for rust and control as needed. 8) In the north, scout for clay colored weevil. 9) Scout for mites.

Blueberries: 1) Scout for virus symptoms. 2) Can apply fungicide for blossom blight and fruit mold control while in bloom. 3) Scout for mummyberry and treat as needed. 4) Scout for aphids in fields having or close to fields having blueberry Scorch virus. Control as needed. 5) Can apply fungicide for anthracnose rip rot prevention.

Strawberries: 1) Scout weak areas for root weevil larvae, cutworms, strawberry crown borers or root disease problems. 2) Scout for slug problems. 3) Can apply fungicide for blossom blight and fruit mold control while in bloom. 4) Scout for aphids and control as needed. 5) Scout for mites. 6) Scout for spittlebugs.

Calendar

June 1—OSU Strawberry Open House ~see above

June 2 —WSU Strawberry Field Day ~see above

June 13-14—International Berry Health Benefits Symposium ~ LaSells Stewart Center, Corvallis, OR. [Click here](#) for a PDF file of the brochure.

June 29 —OSU Caneberry Open House ~ North Willamette Reseach & Extension Center, 15210 NE Miley Rd, Aurora OR. Starts at 2:00 pm.

June 30 —WSU Raspberry Field Day ~ 3:00-5:00 pm at the WSU Puyallup Farm 5. For more information contact Pat Moore, phone 253-445-4525 or [email](#).

July 6 —Mt. Vernon Small Fruit Open House ~ 3:00-5:00 pm at the WSU Mt. Vernon Research & Extension Center. For more information contact Pat Moore, phone 253-445-4525 or [email](#).

July 7—OSU Blueberry Field Day~ North Willamette Reseach & Extension Center, 15210 NE Miley Rd, Aurora OR. From 1:00 to 5:00 pm.

For an expanded online calendar showing later event information, [click here](#).