

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](#)

British Columbia

[Fraser Valley Strawberry Growers Association](#)

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 24, 2005

Welcome to our first Canadian commodity group sponsor, the **Fraser Valley Strawberry Growers Association**. I guess we're now officially international! We truly appreciate the industry's financial support. Thanks. Keep us honest—**suggestions, corrections, criticisms and feedback** are strongly encouraged.

Effects of the recent cool wet weather in the south (the Willamette Valley and Southwest Washington):

- 1) The southern **strawberry harvest timing** is closer than usual to the timing of the northern growing areas
- 2) **Fungal disease pressure** is very high in all southern small fruit crops.
- 3) Fruit set and plant growth are outstanding but the high mold counts are creating concern over **potential fruit quality issues** in all the crops.

Southern Blueberries: Crop yield potential looks to be good although down a little from last year's bumper crop.

Northern Washington Blueberries: Skagit Valley blueberries are on about the same ripening schedule as last year.

Southern Raspberries: The dry, warm weather this week is very needed. Rust pressure is high as is root rot. Crop potential is still good. The first Meeker fields south of Salem could begin machine harvest around June 20th.

Northern Washington Raspberries: Skagit Valley raspberries are looking good with little winter damage.

Southern Blackberries: Kotata's were between 30 and 50% on 5/18. Marions are around 25%.

Southern Strawberries: Some botrytis fruit and blossom rot problems are showing but if the weather stays dry (and the fungicides have done their job), the crop has the potential to be outstanding. Harvest now looks to be starting in the older fields around June 1st with the main harvest about a week later.

Northern Washington Strawberries: Skagit Valley processed harvest will start around June 7 or 8.

B.C. Strawberries: Cooler, wet weather this week has slowed the crop development down.

Supreme Court Ruling sides with Commodity Commissions: Just yesterday (5/23) the Supreme Court issued a ruling on the 'Beef Check Off' case that appears to support the present legal standing of commodity commissions. This is significant in that, had it gone differently, the present way these commissions are structured would have been much more vulnerable to legal challenges. [Click here](#) for a summary of the case.

New Rust species introduced in Oregon: A species of rust that has been used as a biocontrol agent for Himalayan blackberry in Europe, Australia and New Zealand has been found in Oregon. It has reportedly not posed a significant threat to commercial caneberry plantings in those countries. The susceptibility of our commercial crops to this new species is now being evaluated. [Click here](#) for the Oregon Department of Ag.'s press release. [Click here](#) for photos of the disease.

Industry Websites of the Week: [The Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board](#) and [The Oregon State Noxious Weed Control Program](#). Seems appropriate in light of the above news.

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

Insects:

- 1) **McDaniel mites**, southern strawberries. McDaniel mites have been reported at levels requiring treatment in a strawberry field in southwest Washington. This is an unusual mite species to be found in strawberries.

- 2) **Orange Tortrix Leafrollers:** Southern caneberries. Pheromone trap counts are dropping this week in southwest Washington. This is usually an indicator that the female moths are releasing pheromones that compete with the trap lures and could signal an Orange Tortrix hatch within the next week or two. Monitor closely.
- 3) **Mites:** Low populations of mites are showing up in some [raspberry](#) and [strawberry](#) fields. Weather conditions are now changing to favor mite development. Populations can increase very quickly. Scouting needs to include monitoring the populations of mite predators in a field to accurately assess treatment timing and options.

Diseases:

- 1) **Rust**, southern raspberries. Last week's very wet weather rendered some protective fungicide applications ineffective. As of this last Sunday, rust was present in all three stages and posing significant risk of spread in many southern raspberry fields.
- 2) **Powdery Mildew**, strawberries. Some symptoms are starting to appear in southern strawberries. Warm, humid (but dry) weather favors powdery mildew development. Just like we're having right now...
- 3) **Botrytis rot in Strawberries.** The wet bloom period has increased botrytis pressure in strawberries. There are reports of significant stem rot, blossom rot and fruit rot in various locations.

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

Insects/ Mites:

- 1) **Aphids**, blueberries. They can vector [Blueberry Scorch Virus](#) and should be closely monitored.
- 2) **Aphids**, strawberry. Aphid control could be necessary in situations where they **vector viruses**.
- 3) **Clay colored weevil:** northern raspberries.
- 4) **Raspberry beetle:** northern raspberries.
- 5) **Weevils:** strawberries. Adult emergence of [Black Vine](#) and [Rough Strawberry](#) weevil species is evident in the south with some Black Vine adults also reported in northern Washington.
- 6) **Spittlebugs**, strawberries.
- 7) **Slugs**, strawberries.

Diseases:

- 1) **Virus in blueberries:** [Blueberry Shock virus](#) and [Scorch virus](#) symptoms visible in all regions. 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.
- 2) **Blueberry Gall Midge:** southern blueberries.
- 3) **Mummyberry**, blueberries.
- 4) **Anthraxnose:** 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.
- 5) **Botrytis blight**, blueberries. Blossom and twig blight have emerged as serious problems in some fields this year.
- 6) **Phytophthora Root Rot:** Raspberries, Strawberries.

Cropwork:

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

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 ~2:00 pm at North Willamette Reseach & Extension Center, 15210 NE Miley Rd, Aurora OR. [Click here](#) for a PDF file of more information.

June 2 —WSU Strawberry Field Day ~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](#).

June 6 — BC Strawberry Field Day/Tour ~ Abbotsford, BC. For more information contact Chaim Kempler by phone (604) 796-2221 x 224 or [email](#).

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 —Raspberry Variety Trial Field Day ~ 2:00-3:00 pm Sakuma Brothers Farm in Burlington, WA. For details

contact [Henry Bierlink](#) 360-354-8767

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](#)

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