

# 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](#)  
[Raspberry Industry Development Council](#)

## 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](#)

June 28, 2005

[Event Calendar](#)   [Small Fruit Cold Storage Reports](#)   [Weather Forecast](#) by Rufus La Lone

**Southern Blueberries:** Dukes are now coming in steadily and looking very good. Earliblues are having some soft fruit problems. Reka has started. We're seeing [Alternaria](#) and [Anthracnose](#) fruit rots showing up due to humid, warm weather.

**Northern Washington & B. C. Blueberries:** Picking has started in early varieties with good size in some fields

**Southern Raspberries:** The primary machine harvest of Meekers is in swing. Fruit quality is uneven with some excellent IQF fruit in some fields along with mold and soft fruit problems in other fields.

**Northern Washington Raspberries:** Raspberry harvest is starting but it's too soon to measure quality or quantity. There's a high risk of fruit mold and rust problems with the present weather pattern.

**B. C. Raspberries:** [Fruit rot](#) is now becoming a serious problem. Well into handpicking of Meekers, and machines have started running this week as well. Weather has helped to size fruit. Fruit rot sprays are still very important.

**Southern Blackberries:** Some early Kotata's are being picked but the majority will start after the 4<sup>th</sup>. Marions are about 10 days away. Boysens should start this Friday. The Marionberry and boysenberry crops' fruit quality and quantity are in question due to poor pollination and potential mold problems. Need some dry, moderate weather...

**Northern Washington Strawberries:** Strawberry harvest is winding down with yields looking pretty good.

**B.C. Strawberries:** Strawberries are done in eastern Fraser Valley with a pick or so left in western sections. Day neutrals will begin picking by late this week. Volumes were mixed; some people were down 1/3 of the crop, others had too much.

**Southern Strawberries:** Harvest is winding down with a lot of fruit rot problems. A heavy crop, mild, wet weather and too few pickers have made for a very mixed season. Good quality and yields in many fields. An inability to keep up with the pick led to poor quality and poor yields in others.

**Phytophthora Testing available for Washington Raspberry Growers:** This is a great time to take samples and send them in for analysis for detection of **Phytophthora** root rot using **PCR testing**, a much improved method for detecting and diagnosing the disease. The grower cost is \$50 per sample (the other \$50 is paid by the WRRC) and kits can be picked up from Henry Bierlink at the Washington Red Raspberry Commission, Whatcom Farmer's Co-op, Elenbaas, or from Tom Peerbolt of Peerbolt Crop Management. Check out the website: <http://www.whatcom.wsu.edu/ag/IPM/phytophthora.htm> for more information.

## Field days and Open Houses coming up:

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

**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](#)

**July 7—OSU Blueberry Field Day**~ North Willamette Reseach & Extension Center, 15210 NE Miley Rd, Aurora OR. From 1:00 to 5:00 pm. [Click here](#) for the agenda.

**July 11 —Raspberry Variety Trial Field Day** ~ Randy Honcoop's farm, 9696 Northwood Rd., Lynden, WA. For details contact [Henry Bierlink](#) 360-354-8767 or [Tom Peerbolt](#) 503-289-728.

### Chemical Control Update:

- 1) Canberries: [Switch](#), [Pristine](#) and [Elevate](#) can be used during harvest if needed for fruit rot control, they all have a 0 day preharvest interval.
- 2) Growers may want to treat borders where flats are stacked with **slug bait**. Use caution not to contaminate the fruit.

**[New Pest Information/ Alerts](#)** (Click on the highlighted name for scouting, pictures and decision-making guide)

### Insects:

- 1) **Aphids**, strawberry. Aphids **vector many viruses** in strawberries. Post harvest control can be necessary in areas with high virus pressure.

### Diseases:

- 1) **Downy Mildew**, boysenberries and Kotata blackberries. The OSU extension agent, Diane Kaufman, states that this is the worse year for this disease since 1993. It can cause major economic damage by drying up and deforming the fruit. [Click here for photos](#) An **application of Fosphite** (or a similar material) made immediately should be beneficial at stopping the dry fruit stage of this disease.
- 2) **Unknown rust species**, Evergreen blackberries. There's an unknown rust disease turning up in evergreen fields across the region. Look for a reddish lesion on the top of the leaves and a distinct yellow patch of spores on the underside. It's pretty aggressive but is reported to respond to our usual fungicides labeled for rust.
- 3) **Alternaria**, blueberries. This disease only shows up as the fruit ripens. Infected fruits exhibit a shriveling or caving-in of the side of the berry and can become watery in storage; skins are weak and break open easily.
- 4) **Anthraxnose**, blueberries. After harvest, orange spore masses can form rapidly on infected fruit when in cellophane-covered baskets or in plastic clamshell packs.

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

### Insects/ Mites:

- 1) **Strawberry Crown Moth**, southern strawberries.
- 2) **Blueberry Gall Midge**, blueberries [Click here](#) for a PDF file of a recently published OSU bulletin on this insect.
- 3) **Aphids**, blueberries. They can vector [Blueberry Scorch Virus](#) and should be closely monitored.
- 4) **Orange Tortrix Leafrollers**, Southern canberries.
- 5) **Weevils**, strawberries. It is time to treat for weevil infestations in southern strawberries. Adult emergence of [Black Vine](#), [Strawberry](#) and [Rough Strawberry](#) weevil species is evident in all regions.
- 6) **Symphylans**, strawberries:
- 7) **Raspberry beetle**, northern raspberries.
- 8) **Obliquebanded leafrollers**, Raspberries, blueberries.
- 9) **Mites**, raspberries. Our cool, wet weather continues to hold mites in check.

### Diseases:

- 1) **Fruit Rot (botrytis)**, [raspberries](#), [blackberries](#), [blueberries](#), [strawberries](#).
- 2) **Virus in blueberries:** [Blueberry Shock virus](#) and [Scorch virus](#). If your field has shown 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.
- 3) **Yellow Rust**, raspberries.
- 4) **Mummyberry**, blueberries. Fruit symptoms become visible as the fruit begins to size up.
- 5) **Powdery Mildew**, strawberries.
- 6) **Phytophthora Root Rot**, raspberries, strawberries.
- 7) **Spur Blight**, raspberries.
- 8) **Pseudomonas**, blueberries. Wet, cool season has increased incidence of pseudomonas tip infections in blueberries.

### Cropwork:

**All Canberries: Harvest ongoing** 1) Can put out pheromone traps for leafrollers. 2) Scout for mites. 3) Scout for insect harvest contaminants/apply clean up applications as needed. 4) **Boysens and Kotata**: Scout for downy mildew and treat as needed.

**Late ripening blackberries:** 1) Can apply sulfur for redberry mite control. 2) Can apply fungicides for fruit mold control. 3) Scout for rust and treat as needed. 4) Scout for harvest contaminants and control as needed.

**Blueberries: Harvest ongoing** 1) Scout for virus symptoms. 2) Scout for aphids in fields having or close to fields having blueberry Scorch virus. 3) Can apply fungicide for anthracnose rip rot prevention. 4) Scout for leafroller larvae. 5) Plan for bird damage prevention. 6) Scout for weevils.

**Strawberries: Harvest wrapping up** 1) Scout weak areas for root weevil larvae, cutworms, strawberry crown moth, symphylans or root disease problems. 2) Scout for aphids and control as needed. 3) Scout for mites.