

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](#)

July 19, 2005

[Event Calendar](#)

[Small Fruit Cold Storage Reports](#)

[Weather Forecast](#) by Rufus La Lone

Southern Blueberries: Dukes are into their third pick and finishing up. The first pick of Brigittas is finishing. Bluegold are starting. Soft fruit issues with the hot weather but the crop in general is looking good. Some fields this last week had problems with botrytis fruit mold. Bird damage is worse than usual.

Northern Washington Blueberries: Hand and machine picking blueberries is ongoing with very good quality. Birds continue to be a problem. Some growers are just starting to pick. Tip midge is readily visible in most varieties. No aphids problems being reported.

B. C. Blueberries: Mid-season varieties now getting harvested, the much-needed sunshine has arrived. Fruit rot mostly under control, however mummyberry fruit dropping off with harvesting procedures and could be a problem in 2006 spring. Lack of pollination has put a dent in yield expectations. The small fruit is now becoming a bother with harvesting.

Southern Raspberries: Past the peak with maybe 10 days left in the season for some of the stronger fields. Fruit quality has been a season long problem. The dry, warm weather has at least cleared up some of the mold problems.

B. C. Raspberries: Early varieties are finished. Meeker and later varieties hitting peak -- with the real summer weather the end will be in about a week. Fruit size was up in every variety thanks to the cool weather. Fruit rot has been a problem for some picks and is looking better now that things have dried out.

Northern Washington Raspberries: Fruit quality has just not been there with a larger proportion of the crop going into juice and not much IQF. A few of the weaker fields are managing to stay IQF. Mites are showing up with the warmer weather. It's a good year to be a barrel salesman...

Southern Blackberries: Marionberries are into their third and even fourth pick in most fields. ([Click here for photo of poor pollination](#)) The warm, dry weather seems to have improved fruit quality—firmer with less mold. The boysenberry crop has been of poor quality with little IQF fruit. Kotatas are finished with Triple Crown starting to pick next week. Evergreens are showing a little color in weak areas—harvest is two to four weeks off depending on the field. Some sunburn is showing up.

Black Currants: In B.C. even late varieties are now being harvested. In the Willamette Valley, some sunburned fruit is causing problems.

New Small Fruit Root Weevil Field Guide: Washington State University has just published this two-page brochure. It can be downloaded for free but a much-improved (in detail and color) version printed on waterproof paper can be purchased for \$4 on the site.

Industry Website of the Week: This shows blackberry hybridization history. Answering burning questions like "What is a Youngberry?" and "Where does the Marionberry come from?" It's from the Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission's website.

Control Update

A new, low-risk product, [Prev-am](#) (a blend of Borax, orange oil and surfactants) has been registered for control of various diseases and insects in both caneberries and Bushberries. [Click here](#) for the label and [click here](#) for an information sheet.

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

1) New Rust in Evergreen Blackberries—treatment recommendations: The rust we've been finding in Evergreen blackberries has been identified as *Phragmidium violaceum*. Applications of fungicides at this time are not recommended since they will have only a minor impact on the disease and could contribute to fungicide resistance. For treatment

recommendations put together by small fruit plant pathologists Drs. Walt Mahafee (NWCSFR) and Jay Pschiedt (OSU) [click here](#).

2) **[Blueberry Gall Midge](#)**, blueberries Populations of gall midge are building in some fields. It has still not been determined whether the damage caused by the midge to new shoot tips is severe enough to require any control measures. [Click here](#) for a PDF file of a recently published OSU bulletin on this insect.

3) **[Mites](#)**, raspberries. The warmer weather has brought about our usual increase in mite populations. Monitor closely to determine if control measures are needed.

4) **[Bertha Army worm](#)**, B.C. raspberries. This larvae has caused contaminant problems in mechanically harvested raspberries **[Ongoing Seasonal Pest Information](#)** (Click on highlighted name for pictures, scouting and control information)

Insects/ Mites:

1) **[Strawberry Crown Moth](#)**, southern strawberries. [Click here for recent photo](#).

3) **[Aphids](#)**, blueberries. They can vector [Blueberry Scorch Virus](#) and should be closely monitored.

4) **[Aphids](#)**, strawberry. Post harvest control can be necessary in areas with high virus pressure.

5) **[Orange Tortrix Leafrollers](#)**, Southern caneberries.

6) **[Weevils](#)**, strawberries. [Black Vine](#), [Strawberry](#) and [Rough Strawberry](#) root weevils.

7) **[Raspberry beetle](#)**, northern raspberries.

8) **[Obliquebanded leafrollers](#)**, Raspberries, blueberries.

Diseases:

1) **[Downy Mildew](#)**, boysenberries and Kotata blackberries. It can cause major economic damage by drying up and deforming the fruit. [Click here for photos](#)

2) **[Alternaria](#)**, blueberries.

3) **[Anthracnose](#)**, blueberries.

4) **Fruit Rot (botrytis)**, [raspberries](#), [blackberries](#), [blueberries](#),

5) **Virus in blueberries:** [Blueberry Shock virus](#) and [Scorch virus](#).

6) **[Yellow Rust](#)**, raspberries.

7) **[Mummyberry](#)**, blueberries. Fruit symptoms become visible as the fruit begins to size up.

8) **[Powdery Mildew](#)**, strawberries.

9) **[Phytophthora Root Rot](#)**, raspberries, strawberries.

Other Pests:

[Birds](#), blueberries. Fruit damage from birds is causing significant losses in some fields.

Cropwork:

Newly planted baby fields—all crops: 1) Control weeds. 2) Fertilize. 3) Scout for aphids and control as needed.

All Caneberries: Harvest ongoing 1) Control harvest contaminants as needed. 2) Scout for mites. 3) Can apply fungicides for mold control between picks if needed. 4) **Boysens and Kotata:** Scout for downy mildew and treat as needed.

Late ripening blackberries: 1) Scout for rust. 4) Scout for harvest contaminants and control as needed.

Blueberries: Harvest ongoing 1) Implement bird control program. 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 harvest contaminants and control as needed.

Strawberries: Harvest finished 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. 4) (south) Treat for Strawberry Crown Moth if needed. 5) Plan to renovate fields about four weeks after harvest. 6) Can take soil fertility samples right after harvest. 7) Scout for powdery mildew and treat as needed.