

# 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 26, 2005

[Event Calendar](#)

[Small Fruit Cold Storage Reports](#)

[Weather Forecast](#) by Rufus La Lone

**Southern Blueberries:** Dukes are just finishing up. Blue Crop are into their second pick. Legacy, and Ozark Blue are coming in. Some Elliots will start late this week but most will start about a week later. Quality has improved. Very good harvest with yields comparable to last year--less numbers of berries but larger size this year.

**Northern Washington Blueberries:** Many growers pretty much finished Dukes with one pick—excellent quality and yields. Coming off easily. Reka are having some ripening problems as well as some soft fruit. Elliots are at least a couple of weeks away from starting. Very good crop.

**Southern Raspberries:** The last clean up picks are happening this week. For most it was a disappointing harvest with too much juice quality soft fruit and not much IQF grade. Remember that the window to treat for cane blight is right after harvest while the harvester plate wounds are still fresh.

**Northern Washington Raspberries & B. C. Raspberries:** Crop is finishing up this week. Quality is improving due to warmer weather but too late to have much impact. Overall yields are up some from last year but quality is way off.

**Southern Blackberries:** Marions and Boysens are well past their peak. Some fruit will still be harvested over the next week. Overall yields are in the same range as last year but (does this sound familiar?) quality is off. Triple Crown and Chester have started coming in. Smaller fruit size than normal but good firmness. Sunburn is an issue. Evergreens are starting to color with harvest starting in a week or two. The [new rust disease in Evergreens](#) is going to seriously impact the yields of some growers. It has the potential to be a long-term economic factor for Evergreen growers.

**Oregon Department of Ag. Meeting on the Evergreen Blackberry Rust Situation:** Friday, July 29<sup>th</sup>, 10 AM to noon in the Hearing Room in the basement of the OR Dept. of Agriculture Bldg. 635 Capitol Street, NE, Salem. [Click here](#) for a map and parking instructions (a large PDF file).

**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](#) for more information.

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

### Diseases

1) **[New Rust in Evergreen Blackberries](#)**: Click on blue title for the latest information on this disease.

2) **Blueberry Fruit Drop**: This is a potential new virus in blueberries identified by Dr. Bob Martin. The fruit drops off the entire bush in early green fruit stage. This repeats every year. The disease's occurrence is sporadic so far, only being found in five fields—one each in Oregon and Washington and three in B.C. Spread in a field appears very slow. If you suspect a problem in your fields, [email](#) Dr. Martin or call 541-738-4041.

3) **Cane Blight**, raspberries: The window for treating raspberries for cane blight is immediately following harvest. Infection takes place by water splashing spores into the machine catcher plate wounds on the primocanes.

4) **Yellow Rust**, raspberries. Some new plantings are showing higher than usual infection rates. Monitor closely.

## Insects

- 1) [Blueberry Gall Midge](#), blueberries. High infestation rates in many fields. The growing tips become distorted and die. [Click here](#) for a PDF file of a recently published OSU bulletin on this insect.
- 2) [Mites](#), raspberries. With the warmer weather some spotty outbreaks are being found. Monitor closely.
- 3) [Aphids](#), northern raspberries. Populations are low. Parasitism rate appears to be good, helping to moderate any potential problems.

**Meet Tom Walters, the new WSU Small Fruit Physiologist:** Tom starts August 1<sup>st</sup> and wants to meet with growers and industry folks to discuss small fruit research needs. **His schedule:** 1) Friday, Aug 5<sup>th</sup>, 9 am, WSU-Mount Vernon NWREC 2) Tuesday, Aug. 9<sup>th</sup>, 9 am, WA Red Raspberry Commission Office, 1796 Front St., Lynden 3) Thursday, Aug. 11<sup>th</sup>, 9 am, at WSU-Vancouver. All are encouraged to come and discuss the future of small fruit research at WSU.

**North American Strawberry Growers Association Summer Tour:** August 17-19 "Farming on the Urban Fringe", in the lower Hudson Valley of New York State. Take a break. You deserve it, don't you? [Click here](#) for the schedule.

**Industry Website of the Week:** [The National Bramble Growers Association](#) has a new and improved website.

## Industry Newsletters:

- 1) [New York-Berry News](#) from Cornell. This is the July 15<sup>th</sup> issue. It's an 18 page PDF file, but it has a lot of information on small fruit in the Northeast.
- 2) [The Blueberry Bulletin](#) from Rutgers. Check out what's happening with New Jersey Blueberries (a 4 page PDF file)

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

## Insects/ Mites:

- 1) [Strawberry Crown Moth](#), southern strawberries.
- 2) [Aphids](#), blueberries. They can vector [Blueberry Scorch Virus](#) and should be closely monitored.
- 3) [Aphids](#), strawberry. Post harvest control can be necessary in areas with high virus pressure.
- 4) [Orange Tortrix Leafrollers](#), Southern caneberries.
- 5) [Weevils](#), strawberries. [Black Vine](#), [Strawberry](#) and [Rough Strawberry](#) root weevils.
- 6) [Raspberry beetle](#), northern raspberries.
- 7) [Obliquebanded leafrollers](#), Raspberries, blueberries.

## Diseases:

- 1) [Alternaria](#), blueberries.
- 2) [Anthracnose](#), blueberries.
- 3) [Fruit Rot \(botrytis\)](#), [raspberries](#), [blackberries](#), [blueberries](#).
- 4) [Virus in blueberries:](#) [Blueberry Shock virus](#) and [Scorch virus](#).
- 5) [Mummyberry](#), blueberries. Fruit symptoms become visible as the fruit begins to size up.
- 6) [Powdery Mildew](#), strawberries.
- 7) [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.

**Late ripening blackberries:** 1) Scout for rust. 2) 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 ripe 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) Renovate fields about 4 weeks after harvest. 6) Can take soil fertility samples. 7) Scout for powdery mildew and treat as needed.