

Small Fruit Update



May 2, 2006

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

Temperatures at or below freezing last night and tonight are causing concern. Particularly in the **Willamette valley and Southwest Washington** where crop development is most advanced and minimum temperatures are going to be lower than in the north. **Strawberries** and **blueberries** in bloom are vulnerable to damage.

Crop Updates:

Oregon blackberries: Silvan blackberries are just starting to bloom; Marionberries and Kotatas should be starting by the end of the week. Nice weather so guys are planting. ([Click here](#) for photo of damage in Marionberries caused by our mid-February cold spell)

British Columbia raspberries: Better weather has improved things somewhat. First year Meekers generally in good shape with strong lateral development. Older Meekers continue to look tough in many fields with slow lower lateral development and poor colour. Continued clay coloured weevil activity.

Whatcom County raspberries: Good weather finally. Foliar sprays are going on and the second round of dry fertilizer is starting. Clay colored weevils are very active.

Skagit County raspberries: Fields still looking ragged. This kind of continued early season growth pattern indicates that crop yields and quality could potentially be below average.

Oregon/Southwest Washington raspberries: Pretty much the same pattern as the other regions. Older Meeker fields look spotty with slow growth. Newer fields and other varieties are looking pretty good. Applications for yellow rust control went on this week. New fields are being planted.

British Columbia blueberries: A couple of nice, clear days got things moving. It has cooled off a bit and we have had rain and humidity. But the outlook for the next week is for good days and with this the prospect of good pollination continues. All varieties are moving into bloom. The effects of winter damage are still visible in some fields this week.

Winter damage levels appear higher in Langley and Abbotsford than in other regions of the Fraser Valley. Mature Bluecrop are at very early stage with a few blooms. Immature plantings of Bluecrop have been blooming the past week.

Whatcom County blueberries: Bloom sprays going on now. Bloom continues strong with good bee activity.

Skagit County blueberries: Fields continue to look pretty good with minimum winter damage.

Oregon blueberries: Strong bloom in all areas. Crop potential is looking very good. Temperatures hovering around (and below) freezing last night and tonight have some growers using overhead irrigation to minimize the risk of cold damage.

Whatcom County strawberries: Prebloom sprays for aphid control are being applied. As plants have started pushing new growth, areas damaged from weevil larvae feeding on the roots are becoming evident.

Skagit County strawberries: Fields are looking good. Some weevil damage is being seen.

Oregon/SW Washington strawberries: Bloom seems to vary a lot from different areas and field age. Some older Totem fields are around 30% while some new fields are under 10%. We've got a serious risk of freeze damage last night and tonight.

Industry Updates:

1) News From One of our Propagators: Planting of raspberries is two-thirds finished for the Pacific Northwest and passing a third of strawberries as well. And a thought for helping your plant nursery's planning process (and helping the odds you'll get what you need)—**"All good growers are ordering plants for next year now."**

2) Update on Japan's Blueberry Pesticide Regulations: As of May 26 Japan has implemented new rules for imported blueberries. [Click here](#) for an update on these new rules put together by Joe DeFrancesco (OSU).

New pest Information

Insects/Mites

1) Redberry Mites: Evergreen blackberries. It's about time for evergreen growers to apply a sulfur application to prevent redberry mite problems at harvest.

2) Weevils, southern strawberries: The first weevil pupae have been recovered in some fields. Adult emergence is expected to begin within the next 10 days. Some overwintered [Rough Strawberry root weevil](#) adults continue to also be recovered. For more weevil information, click on these links: [Black Vine root weevils](#), [Strawberry root weevils](#).

3) Clay colored weevil, northern raspberries. Activity has increased from Skagit County north into British Columbia. Scout for laterals that have been clipped off and/or leaf notching.

Diseases

- 1) **Yellow rust, raspberries.** In southern raspberries, rust has changed stages from the small, slightly raised inconspicuous spots (spermagonia), to the very visible yellow/orange spore bearing structures (aecia).
- 2) **Scorch virus, blueberries.** Blighted blossoms, a symptom of Scorch, are now apparent in an infected southern blueberry field. Coming soon to fields in the north... **Free virus testing: In B.C.:** Growers can submit up to 10 free samples per field for Scorch/Shock virus testing. Contact [Sonja Ring](#) (Blueberry Council) (604) 613-2133. **In U.S.:** Contact [Bob Martin](#) (USDA small fruit virologist) (541) 738-4041.

Other Pests

Slugs: Reports from the Skagit and Whatcom Counties of large slug populations in strawberries and raspberries.

Ongoing Seasonal Pest Information

Insects/Mites

- 1) **Winter Moth, blueberries.**
- 2) **Orange Tortrix Leafrollers, southern caneberries.**
- 3) **Obliquebanded Leafrollers, northern blueberries.**
- 4) **Aphids, blueberries.**

Diseases

- 1) **Phragmidium Rust: Evergreen blackberries**
- 2) **Shock Virus, blueberries.**
- 3) **Mummyberry, blueberries.**
- 4) **Cane and Leaf Rust, blackberries.**
- 5) **Tomato Ringspot Virus, raspberries:** A chevron pattern on some raspberry leaves infected with Tomato Ringspot Virus is now visible in the south. Check weak areas for symptoms.

Cropwork:

All Caneberries: 1) Can apply foliar fertilizers. 2) Can apply Aliette or equivalent phosphite foliar for root rot control. 3) Scout for rust.

Raspberries: 1) (northern growing areas) Scout for Clay colored weevil. 2) Control primocane growth as needed. 3) Can put out pheromone traps for leafroller monitoring. 4) (northern growing areas) Can put out traps for monitoring raspberry beetle. 5) Scout for mites.

Evergreen Blackberries: 1) Apply fungicide for prevention of blackberry rust infections. 2) Can apply sulfur for redberry mite control.

Blackberries/Boysenberries: Apply Aliette/phosphite for Downey Mildew control.

Blueberries: 1) Scout for mummyberries & control as needed. 2) Bring in bees around 10-15% bloom. 3) Scout for virus symptoms. 4) Scout for secondary Mummyberry infections (dying vegetative tips). 5) Can apply fungicide for fruit mold control. 6) Scout for cane and twig disease symptoms.

Strawberries: 1) Check weak areas for root weevil larvae, strawberry crown borers or root disease problems. 2) Can apply slug bait. 3) Till row centers. 4) Can apply foliar Fosphite, Aliette or equivalent product for root rot control. 5) Can apply fungicide application to prevent fruit mold at 10% bloom. 6) Scout for mites. 7) Scout for virus symptoms (distorted leaves/new growth). 8) Scout for aphids.

All Crops: 1) Can apply fertilizer. 2) Weed control.