

# Small Fruit Update



May 9, 2006

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

We haven't been able to get by the **frosts in the Willamette Valley and Southwest Washington**. Some spotty damage is visible in strawberries ([click here for photo](#)). Certain fields have seen a significant percentage of blossoms affected. In the Whatcom County and Fraser Valley areas, it's been **high winds** on May 1<sup>st</sup> that have caused damage to blossoms in the blueberries.

## Crop Updates:

**Oregon blackberries:** Occasional blooms in Marionberries. A few more in Kotatas and boysenberries and Silvans are well into bloom. Bees should be in this week in all the early and mid season varieties. Some insecticides are going on prior to bloom and the bees. Freeze damage in Marionberries is more apparent after last week's warm weather; the crop will definitely be off. Quite a few affected fields have been cut down to just let the primocanes grow for next year

**British Columbia raspberries:** Raspberries made some good improvements in growth last week with good weather. Meeker still certainly don't look their best and it will take a lot more sunny days to improve them significantly. Yellow rust observed in fields beginning of last week.

**Whatcom County raspberries:** Raspberries are not developing very quickly. A little yellow rust is showing up but the weather hasn't been conducive to its spread. Last weekend's rains could change that. Pre-bloom Diazinon applications start this week. Second round of caneburning with Goal has started.

**Skagit County raspberries:** Finally starting to move but it could be a case of too little, too late as far as crop yields and quality are concerned.

**Oregon/Southwest Washington raspberries:** The younger fields are looking pretty good with decent yield potential but we're still hoping for some breaks with the weather to play catch up on the old Meeker fields. Running out of time for them to develop adequately for a good crop. Rust is still in the Aecia spore stage. The cooler, wet weather could give it and other fungal diseases a chance to develop. Some cane collapse from root rot is evident.

**British Columbia blueberries:** Overall a pretty good week last week for crop development and pollination. The wind on May 1st (up to 70-80 km/hr) caused some damage in Richmond, Delta with whole blossom clusters being broken off. Bloom on most varieties looks good but Bluecrop bloom can be erratic - total potential blossom load varies from field to field. Bluecrop looks to have been impacted the worst by winter weather. Fertilizer applications going on last week and this coming week. Virus symptoms (leaf, blossom and shoot blighting) are showing up in some fields.

**Whatcom County blueberries:** Blues are in every stage of bloom right now. Great bee flights. There are reports of some winter moth problems. Wind damage was also evident here with whole clusters on the ground. The second round of bloom sprays are going on now as well as the second round of dry fertilizer.

**Oregon blueberries:** Very good bee activity last week but the cooler wet weather returned last weekend and this week has slowed things down. Bloom sprays are continuing. Late season spotty frost has kept some irrigation going for frost protection.

**Whatcom County strawberries:** Bloom will start this week. Some prebloom aphid control sprays going on.

**Skagit County strawberries:** No signs of frost damage. Bloom is beginning.

**Oregon/SW Washington strawberries:** Bloom came along very quickly last week. Bloom sprays now ongoing. Some frost damage is evident. Aphid populations are building in some fields with the cool, wet weather.

**Website of the Week:** [American Farmland Trust](#). This organization has partnered with the EPA to fund pest management research in Oregon and Washington. They also have some innovative approaches to the critical issues American agriculture is now facing. [Click here](#) for their detailed plan and campaign for revamping the upcoming Farm Bill. [Click here](#) for their Farmland protection fact sheets.

## New pest Information

### Insects/Mites

1) **Weevils, strawberries.** Up to 50% pupation rates are being found in southern strawberry fields. Adult emergence should start this coming week. For more weevil information, click on these links: [Rough Strawberry root weevil](#), [Black Vine root weevils](#), [Strawberry root weevils](#).

2) **Mites, raspberries.** Low populations of mites are showing up in some southern fields. With our first warm/hot weather predicted for next week, they need to be monitored closely. Some **Stethorus beetle larvae** were also found. These small,

black beetles are a major predator of mites and, if present early enough, keep their populations below economically damaging levels. [Click here](#) and scroll down for Stethorus photos.

3) [Aphids](#), **strawberry**. Populations have been rising this past week in southern strawberries. Aphids, even at low numbers, can spread viruses in strawberries.

### Diseases

1) [Phragmidium Rust](#), **Evergreen blackberries**. It's about time for signs of this rust to show up in the Evergreens. Low levels of active rust have been found in Himalayan blackberries in both Southwest Washington and the Willamette valley. So far, we've had weather conditions that have not been conducive to rust spore germination. If field conditions, through weather or irrigation, could lead to long periods of leaf wetness, preventative fungicides should be applied.

2) [Scorch virus](#), **blueberries**. If you've got virus symptoms (leaf, blossom and shoot blighting) and aren't sure what's causing them, you can contact [Bob Martin](#) (USDA small fruit virologist) (541) 738-4041 for testing.

3) [Shock Virus](#), **blueberries**. Some southern fields have got a very high percentage of bushes showing symptoms with up to 60-70% out of production for this year.

### Cropwork:

**All Caneberries:** 1) Can apply foliar fertilizers. 2) Can apply Aliette or equivalent phosphite foliar for root rot control. 3) Scout for rust and treat as needed. 4) Bring in bees around 10-15% bloom.

**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. 6) Scout and treat for yellow rust as needed.

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

**Kotatas/Chesters/Boysenberries:** Can 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. 9) Scout for two-spotted mites and cyclamen mites.

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

### Ongoing Pest Information

#### Insects

1) [Clay colored weevil](#), northern raspberries.

2) [Redberry Mites](#): **Evergreen blackberries**. It's about time for evergreen growers to apply a sulfur application to prevent redberry mite problems at harvest.

3) [Winter Moth](#), blueberries.

4) [Orange Tortrix Leafrollers](#), southern caneberries.

5) [Obliquebanded Leafrollers](#), northern blueberries.

6) [Aphids](#), blueberries.

#### Diseases

1) [Yellow rust](#), raspberries.

2) [Mummyberry](#), blueberries.

3) [Cane and Leaf Rust](#), blackberries.

4) [Tomato Ringspot Virus](#), raspberries..

#### Other Pests

##### Slugs