

# Small Fruit Update



May 24, 2006

[Event Calendar](#)

[Small Fruit Cold Storage Reports](#)

[Weather Forecast](#) by Rufus La Lone

**Acknowledgment:** Information in this Update comes from numerous sources, both public and private, in British Columbia, Washington, and Oregon. In most cases these sources are not identified. Without the willingness and generosity of these contributors to share their expertise and observations, this Update wouldn't be possible.

**The Willamette Valley and SW Washington** picked up a whole lot of degree-day heat units last week. Right now we're just about **even with last year**. ([Click here](#) to go to the NWIPM home page and then click on **degree-day pop up link** for area totals).

## Crop Updates:

**Oregon blackberries:** Some leaf burning from our mid 90's temperatures early last week but damage isn't economic. A lot of bloom came out last week. The return to cooler, wet weather is welcome but the balance has tipped back over to favor the development of fungal diseases. Growers are looking for windows in the wet weather to get on bloom sprays.

**British Columbia raspberries:** Some pretty good growth in the last week - really warm, sunny days have helped make up for some of the previous pessimism. However, there are still a lot of plantings with less than ideal lateral development. The current weather will really help to push raspberry growth as we enter the flowering period. Fungicide applications for fruit rot started end of last week on Meeker, especially in the new fields (which by and large look quite good). After this week's wet period is over fruit rot spraying will probably pick up considerably as flower development increases.

**Whatcom County raspberries:** Cooler and wetter here, feels good. Pretty much the same report as last week. Bring in bees! Meekers are getting prebloom insecticide applications.

**Oregon/Southwest Washington raspberries:** A lot of bloom came out last week. Now the bees aren't very active. Hopefully we'll return to some better pollinating weather next week. The cool air and rain have relieved some of the stress symptoms in weaker fields.

**British Columbia blueberries:** Bluecrop and Elliot are the main varieties still flowering. Fruit fill is really progressing with some quite substantial sizing on Dukes already. Ripening looks to be all over the map this season as development from field to field for even similar varieties is erratic. Bee activity has been excellent throughout the flowering period so far and if current fruit sizing uniformity is indicative, then pollination this year has been a success. Watching for sizing uniformity on Bluecrop will be key, as last year's pollination of this variety was really off. Quite a bit of Scorch and Shock virus symptoms are evident. Aphid activity is increasing in fields and we are getting geared up for the first aphicide applications as soon as bloom is over and bees are removed. The last nitrogen applications of the season will go on end May/first June.

**Whatcom County blueberries:** Third fungicide application on most blues is done. All varieties in full bloom and some at petal fall.

**Oregon blueberries:** Some scattered hail damage was reported in the Sandy and Woodburn areas. Bloom is finished on Duke. Late season varieties like Elliot and rabbiteye varieties still have a way to go. Right now the harvest start is looking to be pretty close to last year. Pollination looks to have been very good.

**Oregon/SW Washington strawberries:** The cooler, wet weather comes at a good time to help size the fruit and keep some of the older fields still capable of producing quality berries. Actually have some red fruit in fields of early ripening varieties.

**British Columbia Blueberry Council Grower Meeting:** The Council will be having their Annual grower meeting following a grower field day in the evening (6:00-8:00pm) Tuesday, June 13th. Location details coming soon...

**Web Link of the Week:** [Michigan State Blueberry Fruit Rot Identification Guide](#). This is an excellent illustrated guide of various blueberry ripe fruit disease symptoms.

## New pest Information

### Insects/Mites

1) [Blueberry Maggot Survey](#), **Oregon blueberries:** This is a major pest of blueberries in the Eastern U.S. and Canada. It hasn't been detected in the West. Oregon has in place a blueberry maggot quarantine for the eastern states. The Oregon Department of Agriculture surveyed last year for the fly and didn't find any. They're in the process of contacting

growers for repeating the survey this year. Click on the blue title above for a (PDF file) copy of the department's flyer on the survey.

2) **Aphids, blueberries:** With the cooler weather, aphid populations are building. Winged forms are present in all regions. Stringent aphid control is necessary to minimize the spread of Blueberry Scorch Virus.

3) **Weevils, strawberries:** Newly emerged adults are now being recovered in southern fields. These adults will begin to lay eggs in about four weeks so control measures should take place before June 20<sup>th</sup> to prevent a new generation from doing damage next year. For more weevil information, click on these links: [Rough Strawberry root weevil](#), [Black Vine root weevils](#), [Strawberry root weevils](#).

4) **Unidentified Scale Species, Oregon blueberries:** [Click here for photo](#). From OSU Small Fruit Horticulturalist, **Dr. Bernadine Strik** "(The insect) has tentatively been identified as **azalea bark scale**. ... More information on its life cycle and possible control measures will be available as the process of positively identifying this pest continues within the entomology group. This scale is common in rhododendron...To date there are several reported sites in Washington, Columbia, and Marion counties. **It would be good for us all to watch out for infestations and report...**so we can see how wide spread this problem might be...We do not know if it will affect lingonberry, Vaccinium ovatum (evergreen huckleberry), or cranberry. So, please report any sightings. This pest, like other scale, is likely controllable in the crawler stage (the timing of which is weather dependant). However, of concern is that it has been found up in the new growth of blueberry. It also produces considerable amounts of honeydew and thus sooty mold. Sooty mold on fruit or in quantities that would reduce vigor is of concern." [Click here](#) to send us an email on any sightings or information. We'll pass on any information received.

### Diseases

1) **Phragmidium Rust, Evergreen blackberries:** The **first active infections** of this rust were picked up in a Mt. Angell Evergreen field this last week. The weather now favors rust development and it has shown an affinity for flower bracts. Stay on top of field scouting and fungicide applications. This is a disease that has shown the ability to destroy a crop.

2) **Scorch virus, Shock virus, blueberries:** If you're seeing symptoms and you're not sure what you've got, get your samples in to the lab! **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.

3) **Alternaria Fruit Rot, blueberries:** Alternaria can infect the fruit beginning at the end of bloom and throughout the fruit development stage up until harvest. Infections remain latent until the fruit ripens. Infected fruits exhibit a shriveling or caving-in of the side of the berry and can become watery in storage.

4) **Anthraxnose Ripe Rot, blueberries:** Infection takes place during green fruit stage. As infected berries ripen, the flower end may soften and pucker. Under warm and rainy conditions, salmon-colored spore masses form on infected berries. After harvest, spore masses form rapidly on infected fruit when in cellophane-covered baskets or in plastic clamshell packs.

### Cropwork:

**All Caneberries:** 1) Can start applying fungicides for fruit mold control around 10-15% bloom. 2) Scout for rust and treat as needed. 3) Bring in bees around 10-15% bloom. 4) (southern growing areas) Can put out pheromone traps for strawberry crown moth.

**Raspberries:** 1) (northern growing areas) Scout for Clay colored weevil. 2) Can put out pheromone traps for leafroller monitoring. 3) (northern growing areas) Scout for raspberry beetle and control as needed. 4) Scout for mites. 5) Scout and treat for yellow rust as needed.

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

**Blueberries:** 1) Scout for virus symptoms. 2) Can apply fungicide for fruit mold control. 3) Scout for scale (see insect section above). 4) After petal fall, can treat for alternaria and/or anthracnose fruit rot.

**Strawberries:** 1) Check weak areas for root weevil larvae, strawberry crown borers or root disease problems. 2) Can apply fungicide application to prevent fruit mold at 10% bloom. 3) Scout for virus symptoms (distorted leaves/new growth). 4) Scout for aphids. 5) Scout for two-spotted mites and cyclamen mites. 6) (southern growing areas) Can put out pheromone traps for strawberry crown moth.

### Ongoing Pest Information

#### Insects

1) **Raspberry Beetle** (formerly Western Raspberry Fruitworm), northern raspberries. 2) **Aphids**, strawberry. 3) **Redberry Mites**, Evergreen blackberries. 4) **Winter Moth**, blueberries. 5) **Mites**, raspberries 6) **Clay colored weevil**, northern raspberries. 7) **Strawberry Crown Moth**, [southern strawberries](#) and [caneberries](#). 8) **Obliquebanded Leafrollers**, northern blueberries. 9) **Orange Tortrix Leafrollers**, southern caneberries.

#### Diseases

1) **Yellow rust**, raspberries. 2) **Cane and Leaf Rust**, blackberries. 4) **Stamen Blight**, blackberries.