

Small Fruit Update



May 30, 2006

[Event Calendar](#)

[Small Fruit Cold Storage Reports](#)

[Weather Forecast](#) by Rufus La Lone

Crop Updates:

Oregon blackberries: Blackberry growers are training their off year fields and spraying fungicides in between showers. Marions and Boysens are at full bloom. Kotatas are well past full bloom; they will be ahead of the Marions more than usual. Occasional bloom in the evergreens, they look excellent, no freeze damage. The Phragmidium rust that was a huge problem in evergreens last year hasn't been a factor this year due to good weather breaks and good fungicide timing. The heat wave a couple of weeks ago compressed the Marionberry bloom; we went from 10% bloom to full in about 10 days. The other varieties were also affected, so there'll be a lot of fruit ripening at once.

British Columbia raspberries: A lot of erratic bloom is occurring from field to field. Early bloom is on the weaker laterals and as of the end of last week it looked like there would be a significant bloom ready for early this week. The wet cool weather of the weekend has held this back a little and a couple of warm sunny days would open things up and allow a good cover spray. Rust is present but spraying for control last week was nearly impossible. If the weather breaks we could go into a full bloom quickly in many fields.

Whatcom County raspberries: Weird bloom, we may pick Willamette raspberries before strawberries. Bloom is all over the board and the wet weather not conducive to applying fungicides. Spraying between the rain cells. Some areas are incredibly wet and some incredibly dry. Rust conditions are optimal. Growth is still not very filled out in even the warmest fields. Insect activity is at trace levels without any real building evident.

Oregon/Southwest Washington raspberries: We're seeing the first sporadic red fruit. The early season growth pattern is still holding, with a lot of older fields not showing the vigor and color they should to produce a good crop. The young fields are looking good with some excellent yield potential. The heat wave of a couple of weeks ago affected the raspberry bloom. There's a lot of green fruit that's about the same size. Strawberry and raspberry harvests look closer than normal with about 10-14 days between them.

British Columbia blueberries: Bloom is really winding down with only Elliotts still showing significant flowering. Pollination on these plants and late bloom of Bluecrop may be off considerably due to the last 7 or 8 days of wetness. Berry sizing is progressing fast with Dukes increasing quickly in size. Botrytis and Anthracnose are of real concern and sprays to combat these diseases are going on after bloom. It's a struggle to get these sprays on due to the wet weather. Aphids are now seen in most fields.

Whatcom County blueberries: Blueberry bloom is hanging on by a fraction. Most varieties are done. Dukes and Rekas are sizing rapidly. Some fields are showing a lot of dead flowers and leaves, looks like a combination of shock, bacterial blight, frost, mummyberry +++.

Oregon blueberries: Applications for Anthracnose, Alternaria and Botrytis going on this week. Crop is looking good. Berries are sizing up very well.

British Columbia strawberries: Warm and wet weather is already bringing out some mold. Harvest date is still looking around normal: June 15 time period.

Oregon/SW Washington strawberries: Fresh market picks of the early season Honeoye variety have been going on this week with very good fruit. Process harvest of Totems could start with a light pick in SW Washington late this week. Heavier, regular harvest will start about a week later.

Web sites of the Week:

1) [Great Lakes IPM](#) now has pheromone lures for [Winter Moth/Spanworm](#) available. Previously we had to send to Hungary for these. It's good to have a domestic source. Monitoring for Winter Moth/Spanworm flights should be done in late fall and early winter.

2) [Suterra](#) is an IPM supply company in Bend that has a wide range of pheromone lures. It's our main source for Orange Tortrix and Strawberry Crown Moth lures as well as trap supplies.

New pest Information

Insects/Mites

1) [Obliquebanded Leafrollers](#), northern blueberries. We're continuing to see an increase in OBLR larvae in blueberries in the north.

2) [Orange Tortrix Leafrollers](#), southern caneberries: We should be seeing the **first instar larvae** hatching in Southwest Washington and Oregon fields in the next ten days. When these larvae first appear, it is time to treat with bee

safe materials. These include Spinosad (night applications only), Confirm (Tebufenozide) and BT formulations. These are all much more effective on smaller larvae so don't wait too long to treat once you find them in your field.

3) **Aphids, blueberries:** Aphid numbers are increasing in all regions of the Fraser Valley. Winged aphids are now out in all regions as well.

Diseases

1) **Blueberry Virus diseases:** Other than Scorch and Shock, there are a couple of other blueberry virus diseases to be aware of right now:

-- **Blueberry Mosaics:** From the **OSU Online Plant Disease Manual:** "Light green, yellow, and sometimes pink and white patchy mottling on leaves. Symptoms may be irregularly distributed on an infected plant and may show some years but not others. Fruit is reduced in quantity and quality and may ripen late. Blueberry Mosaic spreads slowly in the field by unknown means. No resistant cultivars are known. This disease is of relatively little concern."

-- **Blueberry Fruit Drop:** This is a new virus in blueberries. The fruit drops off the entire bush in early green fruit stage. This repeats every year. The disease's occurrence is sporadic so far being identified in only a few fields.

Spread in a field appears very slow. If you suspect this problem in any of your plants, in the U.S: [email](#) Dr. Bob Martin or call 541-738-4041 and in Canada, contact [Sonja Ring](#) (Blueberry Council) (604) 613-2133.

2) **Yellow rust, raspberries:** With a continuing warm and wet weather pattern, northern raspberries are at continued risk of the spread of yellow rust. Most southern raspberry fields have passed the window when yellow rust can become a major threat.

3) **Botrytis, northern blueberries:** With the wet weather we've had the past week some growers are now seeing Botrytis Fruit Rot on some of the green berries.

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) (southern growing areas) can put out pheromone traps for strawberry crown moth.

Raspberries: 1) Can put out pheromone traps for leafroller monitoring. 2) (northern growing areas) Scout for raspberry beetle. 3) Scout for mites. 4) 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. 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) **Unidentified Scale Species, Oregon blueberries:** [Click here for photo.](#) "(The insect) has tentatively been identified as azalea bark scale. 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 them. [Click here](#) to send us an email on any sightings or information. We'll pass on any information received. 2) **Weevils, strawberries:** Newly emerged adults are now being recovered in southern fields. For more weevil information, click on these links: [Rough Strawberry root weevil](#), [Black Vine root weevils](#), [Strawberry root weevils](#). 3) **Raspberry Beetle (formerly Western Raspberry Fruitworm), northern raspberries.** 4) **Aphids, strawberry.** 5) **Redberry Mites, Evergreen blackberries.** 6) **Mites, raspberries** 7) **Strawberry Crown Moth, [southern strawberries](#) and [caneberries](#).**

Diseases

1) **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.

2) **Phragmidium Rust, Evergreen blackberries:** The **first active infections** of this rust were picked up two week ago.

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.

4) **Anthracnose 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.

5) **Cane and Leaf Rust, blackberries.**