



April 17, 2007

[Small Fruit Cold Storage Reports](#)

[Weather Forecast](#) by Rufus La Lone

[Photo of the Week](#): Unusual cold damage in BC blueberry flower buds.

A cool, wet week has put the brakes on crop development. Looks like more of the same this week.

Pest Alert: Aphids: northern blueberries. Pre bloom aphid control is strongly recommended in blueberry fields infected with or in close proximity to fields infected with [Scorch virus](#). **This disease is most prevalent in B.C.**

From British Columbia: Sonja Ring, BC Blueberry Council's Research Coordinator: "Right now is the perfect time for **pre-bloom aphicide applications** to knock down over-wintering populations. In BC, we are recommending growers use [Fulfill](#) (pymetrozine) for pre-bloom applications." **(Fulfill is not registered for use in blueberries in the US.)**

Crop Reports:

B.C. Raspberries: Crop potential is looking good right now. Very little winter damage is showing up. Chemainus in particular looks strong. First fertilizer applications are going on.

B.C. Blueberries: Very little bloom is showing yet. About 5% bloom on Weymouth. In general, the fruit bud set is looking below average, especially in Bluecrop. There also appears to be a significant amount of winter damage most likely caused last fall in fields that hadn't hardened off soon enough (see photo link above). First fertilizer applications going on starting last week.

Whatcom County Raspberries: The last of the new plantings is finishing. Yellow rust is showing up in new fields on the top of the leaves. Caneburning, fertilizing and herbicide applications are continuing.

Whatcom County Blueberries: Prebloom insecticide applications are going on. Bloom should be starting next week.

Oregon/SW Washington blueberries: Holding steady this week. Some bud damage is being picked up primarily in young plantings but overall fruit bud set looks very good. It hasn't been great pollination weather but there have been windows when the bees have been pretty active and, right now, there isn't a whole lot more bloom coming out.

Oregon/SW Washington strawberries: Fruit trusses are expanding with intermittent blooms. Some fields should get to 10% bloom this week even with the cool weather. Plants with compromised root systems from weevil, crown moth, root rot and other causes are becoming evident in some older fields.

Weblink of the Week: [Click here](#) for Oregon State's **Nursery IPM site**. Oregon State Nursery Extension agent, **Robin Rosetta**, has done a great job putting information and photos on this site that include many pests nurseries and small fruits have in common such as **clay colored weevil** and **azalea bark scale**.

New Pest Information

Insects

1) [Clay colored weevil](#): **northern raspberries & blueberries:** Feeding damage is being reported from British Columbia in some baby blueberry fields as well as the usual clay colored weevil feeding damage in raspberries. Significant damage can be done by these early, cool season weevils from their girdling young, soft canes.

2) [Weevils](#), **strawberries:** [Rough Strawberry root weevil](#), [Black Vine root weevils](#), [Strawberry root weevils](#). The first root weevil pupae have been recovered in some Willamette Valley and SW Washington strawberry fields.

3) [Orange tortrix leafrollers](#), **southern caneberries.** Pheromone traps for monitoring adult populations can now be put out in the fields.

4) [Obliquebanded leafrollers](#), **northern blueberries.** Northern blueberries are seeing some bud damage from leafroller feeding.

5) **Winter moth: (& Span Worm), blueberries.** Reports of ongoing hatches and economic damage in British Columbia and Whatcom County blueberries. In the south, we're picking up some new hatches as well as mid and late instar larvae in both blueberries and raspberries.

Diseases

1) **Yellow rust, raspberries.** The transition from the overwintering, black spore stage (teliospores) to the yellow, slightly raised blister-like spots on new leaves (spermagonia) is now being seen throughout both the southern and northern growing areas.

2) **Downy mildew, blackberries:** Boysenberries and Kotata blackberries are most prone to this disease. It's about time for Aliette/Phosphite applications to help prevent outbreaks.

Ongoing Pest Information

Raspberry beetle: northern raspberries. Raspberry beetles will be emerging from the soil soon. Now is the time to put out the white sticky traps for monitoring for this pest. Contact Colleen Burrows, WSU Whatcom Count Extension, at cburrows@wsu.edu for more information.

Diseases

Disease Alert: Blackberry (phragmidium) rust: Evergreen blackberries.

1) **Pseudomonas (bacterial blight), blueberries.** New, soft growth, with nights below freezing, is a high-risk time for damage. Have protective materials in place before the freezes hit.

2) **Mummyberry, blueberries.**

3) **Shock virus, southern blueberries.** If your blueberry field shows virus like symptoms, you can call Bob Martin (USDA small fruit virologist) to arrange for free testing at (541) 738-4041 or [email](mailto:) him.

4) **Phytophthora root rot: Washington raspberries.** Now that growers are planting raspberries, sampling for phytophthora on pre-plant samples is available. This is free of charge. Samples will be collected by WSU Whatcom County Personnel in King County and north, and by Peerbolt Crop Management in the south. Contact Colleen Burrows (cburrows@wsu.edu) for more information.

Cropwork:

All crops: 1) Apply fertilizer. 2) Weed control.

All Caneberries: 1) Apply lime sulfur for disease and red berry mite control. 2) Can apply Ridomil for root rot control. 3) (northern areas) Begin scouting for clay colored weevil. 4) Burn back primocanes. 5) Can apply phosphite materials for disease control.

Blueberries: 1) Pseudomonas prevention applications. 2) Scout for Winter Moth feeding. 3) Scout for mummyberries/control as needed. 4) Bring in bees around 10% bloom. Can apply Bee Scent or other attractant when weather is cool and wet. 5) Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to confirm. 6) Apply prebloom aphid control as needed. 7) Plan to apply fungicide for fruit mold control at 10% bloom. This can also help twig dieback from botrytis infections.

Strawberries: 1) Can apply foliar Fosphite, Aliette or equivalent product for root rot control. 2) Plan for fungicide application to prevent fruit mold at 10% bloom. 3) Check weak areas for root weevil larvae, strawberry crown borers or root disease problems. 4) Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to confirm. 5) Can apply slug bait.

Some Upcoming Small Fruit Events ([Click here](#) for a more complete calendar)

Oregon Blueberry Commission Meeting & Budget Hearing

May 8 ~ Noon, Doaks Ferry Room, West Salem Roth's IGA, 1130 Wallace Rd NW, Salem, OR. Call the Commission office at 503-364-2944 for more information.

Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission Meeting & Budget Hearing

May 8 ~ 5:30 pm, Langden Farms Golf Club restaurant, Aurora, OR. Call the commission at 541-758-4043 or [E-mail](#) for more information.

Oregon Strawberry Commission Meeting & Budget Hearing

May 10 ~ 6:00 pm, Doaks Ferry Room, West Salem Roth's IGA, 1130 Wallace Rd NW, Salem, OR. Call the commission at 541-758-4043 or [E-mail](#) for more information.

Berry Health Benefits Symposium

June 11-12 ~ Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR. [Click here for details.](#)

OSU Strawberry Open House

June 13 ~ 2:00 pm at the North Willamette Research and Extension Station, 15210 NE Miley Road, Aurora, OR. Call 503-678-1264 x 0 for more information.