

# Small Fruit Update



May 23, 2007

[Small Fruit Cold Storage Reports](#)

[Event Calendar](#)

[Weather Forecast](#) by Rufus La Lone

[Photos of the Week](#): 1) Cane and leaf rust (*Kuehneola uredinis*) in Marionberries. 2) Crown Gall in Chester blackberries.

[Web Link of the Week](#): [Michigan State Blueberry Fruit Rot Identification Guide](#)

**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.

## Crop Reports:

- **British Columbia blueberries:** All varieties are into bloom with good weather over the past 10 days. Dukes are wrapping up their bloom as are Reka. Bluejay is pretty advanced. Elliots are from 20-40% bloom. Both Duke and Bluecrop are still showing significant winter injury. It's difficult to predict how much this will impact the overall crop yield at this point.
- **British Columbia raspberries:** Not much winter injury but there are signs in some fields of compromised roots systems from both fall drought and root rot. Malahats are starting to bloom. Color is looking better after the weekend rains.
- **Oregon blackberries:** Marions are anywhere from 20% to 30% bloom, Kotatas around 40%. Irrigation started on many fields last week. Fields in the off year of an alternate year harvest system are getting their first cane training to the wires.
- **Oregon/Southwest Washington raspberries:** Fields are still looking very good. Bloom is coming along with Meekers around 15-25%. Some cane collapse is starting to be apparent in fields with root rot problems..
- **Whatcom County raspberries:** Willamettes rapidly going into bloom, Meekers just a bit behind.
- **Whatcom County strawberries:** Strawberries well into bloom.

## Industry News

- **Washington Red Raspberry Commission seeks Marketing Program assistance:** The commission has announced a Request for Qualifications for two new contract positions. [Click here](#) to go the commission website. From there click on the news link for further information.
- **USDA Frozen Raspberry Puree Offer:** [Click here](#) for the USDA's recent offer to buy red raspberry puree.
- **Rader Farms in Lynden Sold:** [Click here](#) for the press release from the Inventure Group regarding their purchase of Rader Farms.
- **Oregon strawberries:** [Click here](#) for an article from the Portland Business Journal on Oregon's shrinking strawberry crop.
- **California Blueberries:** [Click here](#) for an article from the Fresno Bee on California's growing blueberry industry.
- **Chinese Imports:** [Click here](#) for an article from Sunday's Washington Post titled, "**Tainted Chinese Imports Common**".
- **North American Bramble Growers Association (NABGA) Consumer Handouts Available:** [Click here](#) for samples of the handouts. NABGA members can download them from the website ([Click here](#)).

## New Pest Information

### Insects

- **[Aphids/Scorch Virus](#): blueberries.** Winged aphids are now being recovered in all growing regions of the northwest. These are the guys that do the major spread of Scorch virus. No control materials can be applied as long as bees are in the field. Admire can be applied post bloom after bees are removed.

- **[Obliquebanded leafrollers](#), blueberries, raspberries.** In B.C., a second flush of leafrollers is showing up in some fields. In SW Washington and the Willamette Valley leafroller larval populations are declining even as trap counts of adults are increasing.
- **[Weevils](#), strawberries, raspberries, blueberries.** Black vine and strawberry weevil adults are being recovered in various fields of all three crops. In addition rough strawberry adults are being found in SW Washington strawberry fields. For more weevil information, click on these links: [rough strawberry root weevil](#), [black vine root weevils](#), [strawberry root weevils](#).
- **[Azalea Bark Scale](#), blueberries.** [Click here for information on azalea bark scale](#) and other scale species. This scale is entering crawler stage which is the best time for effective control applications. If bees are still in the field, Esteem, an insect growth regulator can be used to treat without harm to bees.
- **[Lygus Bugs](#), northern strawberries:** This is a major pest in California strawberries and an occasional pest for most northwest strawberries. Right now, in Whatcom county, watch for them as they can move in from newly mowed grass fields. Their feeding can cause deformation (monkey-facing) of the developing fruit.

### Ongoing Pest Information

(Click on blue, underlined pest name to link to further scouting information, photos, and control options)

#### Insects

- **[Spittlebugs](#)**, strawberries.
- **[Strawberry Crown Moth](#)**, [southern strawberries](#) and [caneberries](#)
- **[Mites](#)**, strawberries.
- **[Orange Tortrix leafrollers](#)**, southern caneberries.
- **[Raspberry Beetle](#)**: northern raspberries.
- **[Clay Colored weevil](#)**: northern raspberries & blueberries.
- **[Blueberry Gall Midge](#)**: blueberries.
- **[Redberry Mites](#)**, Evergreen blackberries.

#### Diseases

- **[Scorch Virus](#), British Columbia blueberries.** Now is the time to walk your fields and look for virus symptoms. Contact [Sonja Ring](#), Research Coordinator for the B.C. Blueberry Council at 604-613-2133 for details of the Ministry of Ag free testing.
- **[Mummyberry](#)**, blueberries.
- **[Alternaria Fruit Rot](#), southern 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.
- **[Anthracnose Ripe Rot](#), southern blueberries:** If you've had problems with anthracnose, prevention of a reoccurrence needs to begin at petal fall. 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.
- **[Cane and Leaf Rust](#)**, blackberries.
- **[Shock virus](#)**, blueberries.
- **[Unidentified virus-like symptoms](#), blueberries:** If growers in any growing region observe virus-like symptoms such as blossoms and/or vegetative laterals collapsing and aren't sure what's causing them:  
 In **Washington and Oregon**, contact [Bob Martin](#) (USDA small fruit virologist) (541) 738-4041 for free testing.  
 In **British Columbia**, contact [Sonja Ring](#) at 604-613-2133 for details of the Ministry of Ag free testing.
- **[Pseudomonas \(bacterial blight\)](#)**, blueberries.
- **[Blackberry \(Phragmidium\) Rust](#)**: Evergreen blackberries.
- **[Yellow Rust](#)**, raspberries.
- **[Tomato Ringspot Virus](#)**, southern raspberries.
- **[Stamen Blight](#)**, blackberries.

#### Cropwork:

**All Caneberries:** 1) Bring in bees around 10% bloom. 2) Apply fungicides for fruit mold beginning at 10% bloom. 3) Scout for rust and treat as needed. 4) (southern growing areas) Can put out pheromone traps for orange tortrix and/or strawberry crown moth.

**Evergreen/Chester Blackberries:** Can apply sulfur for redberry mite control.

**Raspberries:** 1) (northern growing areas) Scout for Clay colored weevil. 2) (northern growing areas) Scout for raspberry beetle and control as needed. 3) Scout for mites.

**Blueberries:** 1) Can apply fertilizer. 2) Scout for mummyberry symptoms--control as needed. 3) Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to confirm. 4) Apply fungicides for fruit molds beginning at 10% bloom. 8) Scout for weevil notching on lower leaves. 4) Scout for scale. 5) After petal fall, can treat for alternaria and/or anthracnose fruit rot.

**Strawberries:** 1) Fungicide applications to prevent fruit mold starting at 10% bloom. 2) Scout weak areas for root weevil larvae, strawberry crown borers or root disease problems. 3) Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to

confirm. 4) Scout for weevil notching leaves. 5) Scout for aphids. 6) Scout for two-spotted mites and cyclamen mites. 7) (southern growing areas) Plan to put out pheromone traps for strawberry crown moth.