

# Small Fruit Update



May 9, 2007

[Small Fruit Cold Storage Reports](#)

[Weather Forecast](#) by Rufus La Lone

The **unsettled weather** of the last couple of weeks has resulted in hail damage to scattered blueberry and strawberry fields throughout the northwest. Even some caneberry fields have had laterals stripped off by hail.

On the good side, it looks like a **nice weather break this week** and maybe even next. It will help a lot on both **increasing pollination**, **pushing plant growth** and **lowering the risk of major fungal disease problems**.

## Crop Reports:

**British Columbia blueberries:** Duke and Bluecrop are between 5% and 25%. Elliott and Chandler are at pink tip. Cool and showery weather with hail last week fortunately left only minor, localized damage but also has stalled the growth. Bees are having a hard time getting good flying weather so there's concern over just how good the early pollination will be.

**Oregon blueberries:** Ozarkblue and Legacy at full bloom. Duke and Bluecrop are past peak bloom. Patriot and Earliblue are at green fruit stage. Spotty hail damage but overall crop potential remains good with a heavy bud set and, so far, pretty good pollination. We're beginning to see plants with either delayed Shock symptoms or Pseudomonas with the majority of 2-4" vegetative laterals collapsing on the plants. So far the numbers of plants affected are not large.

**Oregon/SW Washington strawberries:** Bloom is anywhere from 25% to 60% with quite a difference between the early fields that came out with the warm days a couple of weeks ago and the later fields that have had slow development in the cool, wet weather recently. Hail damage in some area fields will effect fruit quality by causing significant monkey-facing as well as raising the risk of mold infections. Harvest timing still looks to be typical early June with heat units running a little ahead of last year.

**Oregon blackberries:** Bloom is just getting started in Marions and Kotatas. Silvans are well along. This week's forecast for dry and sunny weather should bring it along quickly. First bloom fungicide applications are starting.

**Whatcom County Strawberries:** Pre-bloom aphid sprays were going on last week. Bloom is just beginning.

**Oregon/Southwest Washington raspberries:** Bees are coming into some fields this week as we're hitting 10% bloom. Most fields still maintaining good color and growth.

## New Pest Information

### Insects

1) **Aphids/Scorch Virus: northern blueberries.** Aphid populations are increasing in northern blueberries. Control options are very limited once the bees are in.

2) **Weevils, strawberries, raspberries, blueberries.** More than 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](#).

3) **Mites, strawberries.** Low populations of mites are showing up in some southern fields. With our first warm/hot weather here, they need to be monitored closely.

### Diseases

1) **Cane and Leaf Rust, blackberries.** Along with the much more serious, [Blackberry Rust](#) in Evergreens (*Phragmidium violaceum*), Cane and Leaf Rust (*Kuehneola uredinis*) symptoms are also showing up in Marions and Evergreens. Click on the above links to see the differences in their appearance.

2) **Shock virus, blueberries.** Shock virus symptoms have begun showing up in British Columbia this past week.

3) **Scorch Virus, blueberries.** Scorch virus symptoms Are now apparent in one of the few fields in the southern growing area that has been verified as having this disease.

4) **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 program.
- 5) **[Pseudomonas \(bacterial blight\)](#), blueberries.** Plants in some southern fields which had displayed Shock virus symptoms and then sent out new vegetative laterals, are now showing a blighting/collapse of those new laterals that looks like Pseudomonas. Some of this is similar to the pattern observed last year. Samples are being submitted for verification. Early speculation is that, given wet conditions and late freezes, plants that display Shock symptoms might be susceptible to a later Pseudomonas infection.
- 6) **[Powdery Mildew](#), southern strawberries.** The distinct leaf curling and purple tinged leaves are making their first appearance of the season in some of the new strawberry plantings in SW Washington.

### Ongoing Pest Information

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

#### Insects

[Raspberry beetle](#): northern raspberries.

[Orange tortrix leafrollers](#), southern caneberries.

[Winter moth](#): (& span worm), [Obliquebanded leafrollers](#), northern blueberries.

[Clay colored weevil](#): northern raspberries & blueberries.

[Blueberry Gall Midge](#): blueberries.

#### Diseases

[Blackberry \(phragmidium\) rust](#): Evergreen blackberries.

[Yellow rust](#), raspberries.

[Mummyberry](#), blueberries.

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

#### Cropwork:

**All Caneberries:** 1) (northern areas) Scout for clay colored weevil. 2) Burn back primocanes. 3) Can apply phosphite materials for disease control. 4) Bring in bees around 10% bloom. 5) Apply fungicides for fruit mold beginning at 10% bloom.

**Blueberries:** 1) Pseudomonas prevention applications. 2) (northern areas) Scout for Winter Moth feeding. 3) Scout for mummyberry symptoms--control as needed. 4) Bring in bees around 10% bloom. 5) Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to confirm. 6) (northern areas) Apply prebloom aphid control as needed. 7) Apply fungicides for fruit mold beginning at 10% bloom. 8) Scout for weevil notching on lower leaves.

**Strawberries:** 1) Can apply foliar Fosphite, Aliette or equivalent product for root rot control. 2) Plan for fungicide applications to prevent fruit mold starting at 10% bloom. 3) Scout 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. 6) Scout for weevil notching leaves.

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

**May 10 —Oregon Strawberry Commission meeting and budget meeting** ~ 6:00 pm, Roth's IGA, 1130 Wallace Rd NW, Salem, OR. Call the Commission office 541-758-4043 or [email](#) them for more information.

**May 11 —Blueberry Workshop** ~ 7:00 to 9:30 pm Hampton Inn, Langley, BC, offered by the BC Blueberry Council. For more information [click here](#) or call Sonja Ring 604-613-2133.

**June 6 —WSU Strawberry Field Day** ~ 3:00-5:00 pm at the WSU Puyallup Farm 5. For more information contact Pat Moore, phone 253-445-4525 or [email](#).

**June 11-12 —2007 Berry Health Benefits Symposium** ~ Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR. [Click here for details.](#)

**June 13 —OSU Strawberry Open House** ~ starting at 2:00 pm at the North Willamette Research and Extension station, 15210 NE Miley Road, Aurora, OR. Call (503) 678-1264 extension 0 for more information.