

Small Fruit Update



Disseminating information for the [Washington Red Raspberry Commission](#) and the [Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission](#)

April 28, 2003

Looks like this week will be drier but the chronic soggy spring weather is impacting the crops and crop activities in a number of ways.

- 1) **New plantings** haven't gone in on time.
- 2) It's created **poor pollinating conditions for blueberries**.
- 3) There's more **root rot problems** than usual showing up strawberries and raspberries.
- 4) The **dry land fields** hurt by last fall's very dry weather have recovered pretty well.
- 5) There's an increased risk of **botrytis fruit mold infections** in blooming crops.
- 6) Conditions favor **aphid** development and tend to depress **mites** (and people).

May 2nd there will be a pickup for pesticide containers at the WSU Vancouver Station at 1919 NE 78th St from 8am to 10am. Containers need to be triple rinsed with no residues. For more info see [website at **nwagplastics.com**](#) or call Martin Nicholson at 360 576 6030.

We're **a week to ten days ahead of last year in heat units**. Here are some of the comparative numbers (calculated from a 45 degree low threshold) for January through April 23rd **Salem** 440 vs. 337 last year. **Scappoose** 379 vs. 307 last year. **Bellingham** 252 vs. 162 last year.

If you need to have your **blueberries tested for possible virus infections**, Bob Martin, the USDA's small fruit virologist has a new phone number. It is 541-738-4041.

Insect Update

- 1) **Spanworm/Winter moth** larvae are now present in many area blueberry fields. [Click here for new pictures of each species](#). Check for dying or dead flower buds with webbing and/or a small green caterpillar inside.
- 2) **Aphid** populations are building in some strawberry fields. Early season aphid control can be necessary in situations where they can **vector viruses**. These include blueberry fields infected with or in close proximity to **blueberry scorch virus** and virus susceptible strawberry varieties such as **Hood**.
- 3) **Clay colored root weevil adults** are present in some northern raspberry fields. Scout for feeding damage on emerging buds.
- 4) A few **root weevil pupae** are now being recovered from strawberry fields in South. The recovered pupae are pretty large and are most likely **black vine root weevil**.
- 5) **Raspberry Fruitworm** traps have been set out this week. Their feeding pattern is very distinctive--check the picture. ([Click her for picture](#)). If you don't have traps, a beating tray works pretty well to check for their presence. In past years we haven't found this pest at economic levels in the South.
- 7) **Two spotted mites** are being found at low levels in raspberries in the south and north. **McDaniel mites** are at low levels in some raspberry fields in eastern Clark County.

Disease Update:

- 1) As mentioned above, our chronic wet weather has **increased the risk of root rot** in all small fruit crops. Stay on top of the foliar fungicide applications (like Fosphite and Aliette).
- 2) **Tomato Ringspot Virus**: A chevron pattern on some raspberry leaves infected with Tomato Ringspot Virus is appearing in the South. This is the only time of year this symptom is visible. ([Click here for picture](#)).
- 3) **Mummyberry** in blueberries: Protective fungicide applications should be applied now if mummyberry has been a problem.
- 4) **Shock virus** symptoms are showing up in blueberry fields in all regions. The newly developing buds suddenly turn black and die. Infected plants recover but produce no crop for a year. No treatments are available. It's vectored by bees. If you suspect your field has a virus but are unsure, you can call Bob Martin, the USDA small fruit virologist to arrange for testing. 541-738-4041.

5) Scorch virus symptoms are also due to show up in blueberries. It looks very similar to Shock but isn't nearly as common. It is however, much more serious since plants don't recover and should be immediately removed to prevent spread. Again, if you suspect your field has a virus but are unsure, you're encouraged to call Bob Martin, the USDA small fruit virologist and arrange for testing. 541-738-4041. ([Click here for pictures of shock and scorch viruses](#)).

6) Rust is visible in raspberries in the south. The present spore stages ([click here for picture](#)) don't require treatment.

Chemical Update

1) Strawberry fruit mold control options this year include **Switch, Elevate, Thiram** and **Captan**. The first application is recommended to go on at 10% bloom. Alternate or tankmix materials to avoid resistance and ensure control of a broad spectrum of fungal diseases.

2) Fruit mold control fungicide options in blueberries include **Elevate, Switch, Rovral**, and **Captan**.

Cropwork:

Caneberries: 1) Fertilizer can be applied. 2) Plan for primocane control --timing depends on material or method used. 3) Scout for rust. 4) Put out pheromone traps for leafrollers. 5) Scout for raspberry fruitworm in the north.

Blueberries: 1) Can apply fungicide for preventing fruit mold if bloom is opening 2) Scout for winter moth and treat if necessary. 3) Can treat for mummyberry. 4) Fertilizer can be applied. 5) Plan to bring in bees at 10% bloom. Also control dandelions in field to take away alternate pollen source. 6) Scout for aphids in fields having or close to fields having blueberry scorch virus. 7) Scout for Shock and Scorch virus symptoms.

Strawberries: 1) Can apply fungicide for preventing fruit mold if bloom is opening 2) Scout weak areas for presence of weevil larvae or strawberry crown moth. 3) Scout for cyclamen mites. 4) Scout for two-spotted mites. 5) Scout for low levels of aphids in virus susceptible varieties (like Hoods). 6) Can apply Fosphite or Aliette (or equivalent) for root rot.

All Crops: Control existing weeds.

Weather for the week:

(South): Drier but some showers through out the week. Highs in the sixties. Lows around 45.

(North): Drying out. Some showers possible. Highs in the sixties. Lows around 45.

Calendar:

April 29 Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission Meeting at the North Willamette Research and Extension Station at 5 PM. For information call 541-758-4043 or [e-mail](#).

May 2 A pickup for pesticide containers at the WSU Vancouver Station See above.

May 14 Oregon Strawberry Commission Meeting at Alessandro's restaurant in Salem 5:30 pm. Call 541-758-4043 or [e-mail](#) for information.

May 29 - 31 Food Alliance is one of 45 non-profit and government agencies collaborating to present **The Sustainability Forum** in Portland. The Forum will take place at the Hilton Portland and Executive Tower. Call (503) 222-7041 for more information.

June 10 Puyallup Strawberry Field Day, WSU Puyallup Farm 5, 3:00-5:00 pm.

July 10, Puyallup Raspberry Field Day, WSU Puyallup Farm 5, 3:00-5:00 pm.

July 24, Mt Vernon Small Fruit Field Day, WSU Mt. Vernon, 3:00-5:00 pm.

5261 N. Princeton ~ Portland, OR 97203 ~ Office phone: (503) 289-7287 ~ Fax: (503) 289-7229

Cell phone: (503) 970-0922 ~ email info@peerbolt.com ~ website <http://www.peerbolt.com>