



Disseminating information for: [Washington Red Raspberry Commission](#), [Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission](#), [Oregon Strawberry Commission](#), [Washington Blueberry Commission](#), [Washington Strawberry Commission](#).

July 20, 2004

NOTE: References to north and south in this Update refer to the two major small fruit growing regions in the northwest. North includes southern British Columbia and northwest Washington. South includes southwest Washington and the Willamette Valley in Oregon.

Raspberries: Harvest is on the downswing in the north and virtually finished in the south. The last picks are happening in the next couple of days. Many northern growers' yields are down from last year.

Blueberries: Harvest is ongoing. Quality is excellent so far. It should be a heavy volume week for processed blues in Oregon.

Blackberries: Marionberries have about another week of harvest in the Willamette Valley. Mold has been a problem with our muggy weather. Dry cell problems have also been reported. Evergreens are still a couple of weeks away with just a little black fruit starting to show up.

WSU Small Fruit Field Day: Thursday, July 22 ~ Mt. Vernon Station, 3–5 PM. For more information: [Patrick Moore](#).

Washington State Department of Ag Newsletter: [Click here](#) to view the PDF file newsletter. (If you do not have the free reader for PDF files, there is a link at this site so you can download it.) The newsletter is long—28 pages with information on a lot of pesticide related subjects such as the Cholinesterase testing program for Washington growers, info on their upcoming online pesticide recertification credit courses and all the skinny on who's gotten fined for what pesticide violations...

New Update Feature: I thought it would be nice (and interesting to you) to highlight an industry website occasionally. This week it is Graysmarsh Farm (<http://www.olyopen.com/grysmrsh/>) in Sequim—great preserves and a beautiful setting.

Insect Update—New information/Alerts

1) Blueberry Gall Midge damage is now apparent in many blueberry fields. Reports from the north are that some fields exhibit up to 90% tip infestations. The larvae of this tiny midge feed on actively growing vegetative tips often causing them to die. Sometimes the very small white larva can be seen at the base of the dieback. This can result in the lower buds breaking and a 'witches broom' effect.

2) Weevil in blueberries: Larval feeding damage is now evident in some new fields. Look for reddening foliage, stunted or dead bushes. Adult root weevils should be active right now. Note notching of leaves low on the bush. If anyone collects weevil adults in the North, Todd Murray (Whatcom IPM, 360-676-6736) would be interested in identifying them to know which ones are damaging blueberries.

3) Mites in Willamette raspberries: In the north, mite populations are increasing significantly in some Willamette variety fields.

4) Raspberry beetle adult contaminant numbers are very low in northern raspberries compared to previous years even though trap numbers were high. [For photos click here](#)

Insect Update—Ongoing information

1) Aphids are present in many small fruit fields. In particular, keep an eye on new plantings of strawberries and raspberries. Scout for them on the new growth, looking at the undersides of the leaves. These are also the major vector for Blueberry Scorch Virus. Control options include Diazinon and [Provado](#) (imidachloprid).

2) Obliquebanded leafroller adult trap numbers are now declining. Some newly hatched larvae are being found in the Willamette Valley. Our accelerated degree-day accumulation this year could move this hatch up providing an increased chance of contaminant problems in late season blackberries. In the north, OBLR larvae can be a blueberry and caneberry crop contaminant. Scout for rolled up leaves.

3) Orange Tortrix leafroller larvae are now present in some southern caneberry fields in high numbers, creating the potential for harvest contaminant problems.

4) **Root Weevils:** [Click here](#) for weevil species photos and information.

5) **Strawberry Crown Moth.** The major hatch is still in process in the south. Now is the time (and the only time!) to treat—it's getting late. The [PNW Handbook write up](#) has pictures and detailed sampling information. This pest can cause major economic damage to strawberries and blackberries if undetected ([you can also click here for picture](#)). They haven't been reported as a pest in the north.

Disease Update—New information/Alerts

1) **Botrytis on blueberry tip growth** is visible in some northern fields.

2) **Stem Cankers and red 'flagging'** are also showing up in some blueberry fields. The possible cause could be Phomopsis. Infected stems should be pruned out.

3) **Caneblight in raspberries:** The window for treating raspberries for caneblight is immediately following harvest. Infection takes place by water splashing spores into the machine catcher plate wounds on the primocanes. **Benlate**, the previously recommended treatment, is no longer labeled. However, **Cabrio** and **Pristine** are now being tested for control of caneblight. There are indications that they could be effective.

Disease Update—Ongoing information

1) **Raspberry Bushy Dwarf Virus** symptoms are now visible in many northern raspberry fields. The primary visible effect is crumbly fruit and reduced yields.

2) **Rust in raspberries:** Some southern baby raspberry fields are showing an increase in rust outbreaks.

3) **Mosaic leaf symptoms in blueberries:** There seems to be an increase in blueberry leaves showing a reddish mottling. This has been previously thought to be a fairly benign virus (Mosaic virus). Dr. Bob Martin is testing some of these samples to see if we might have another virus involved. [Here are](#) some pictures from one of our contributors.

4) **Botrytis Fruit Rot:** This is the time of year when fruit rot is the primary disease that can seriously impact fruit yield and quality. Problems are being reported in the later Marionberry picks. The humid conditions have contributed.

5) **Mummyberry:** The fruit is at the stage when it's very easy to distinguish infected fruit. Now is a good time to scout the fields to assess infection levels. [Click here](#) for pictures.

6) **Blueberry Scorch Virus:** WSU Whatcom County has a [web page](#) with Blueberry Scorch virus information and sampling guidelines. Todd Murray (360-676-6736) would be happy to assist growers in surveying in Whatcom County. British Columbia also has several nurseries that have their stock tested regularly. [Email](#) Tom Baumann for further information.

7) **Blueberry Fruit Drop:** This is a potential new virus in blueberries identified by Dr. Bob Martin. The fruit drops off the entire bush in early green fruit stage. This repeats every year. The disease's occurrence is sporadic so far, only being found in five fields—one each in Oregon and Washington and three in B.C. Spread in a field appears very slow. If you suspect a problem in your fields, [email](#) Dr. Martin or call 541-738-4041.

8) **Blueberry Shock virus** symptoms are visible in blueberries. The newly developing buds suddenly turn black and die. Infected plants recover but produce no crop for a year. No treatments are available. This looks very similar to Scorch virus. If you're unsure, [email](#) Dr. Martin or call 541-738-4041 for testing information.

9) **Phytophthora Root Rot** symptoms are becoming very pronounced in some raspberry fields. Plant leaves yellow and canes collapse.

Cropwork

Raspberries: Harvest ongoing 1) Scout for insect harvest contaminants (leafrollers, weevils, stinkbugs, earwigs...) and treat as needed. 2) As harvest ends, plan to treat for cane blight. 3) Scout for rust and treat as needed. ...). 4) Scout for mold and treat as needed. 5) Scout for mites.

Blackberries: Harvest ongoing. 1) Scout for insect harvest contaminants (leafrollers, weevils, stinkbugs, earwigs...). 2) Scout for mold and treat as needed. 3) Scout for redberry mite damage.

For late ripening blackberry varieties 1) Use pheromone traps for leafroller adult monitoring. Also scout for larvae. 2) Can apply fungicide for fruit mold control. 3) Scout for redberry mite damage.

Blueberries: Harvest ongoing 1) Scout for virus diseases. 2) Implement bird control strategies. 3) Scout for weevils. 4) Scout for aphids. 5) Scout for leafroller larvae in rolled up leaves.

Strawberries: Harvest finished 1) Scout for root weevil and treat as needed. 2) Put out pheromone traps for Strawberry Crown Moth and treat as needed. 3) Scout for two-spotted mites and cyclamen mites. 4) Scout for powdery mildew symptoms. 5) Scout for aphids. 6) Plan to renovate fields about four weeks after harvest. 7) Fertilize and water immediately following renovation. 8) Can take soil test on established fields.

Weather for the week

North (Whatcom County): Dry and hot. Highs heading into the upper 80s. Lows in the upper 50s.

South (north Willamette Valley): Dry and hotter. Highs going up close to 100. Lows around 60.

Calendar

July 22 — WSU Small Fruit Field Day ~ See above for information.

August 18-20 — North American Strawberry Growers 2004 Summer Tour ~ Delta Quebec Hotel, Quebec City, Quebec, Canada. For more information, [email](#) or call Georgene Thompson 717-243-1349.

Small Fruit Cold Storage Reports: <http://berrygrape.oregonstate.edu/markets/cold.htm>

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