



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

August 10, 2004

Blueberries: Harvest is ongoing. There were some soft fruit problems with last week's heat.

Blackberries: Late ripening varieties continue harvest with some heat damage. Marionberries, Kotatas and Boysenberries are finished. Summer training of canes is in progress.

Raspberries: Harvest is finished. Post harvest applications for insects and fungal diseases are going on.

Website of the Week: [Alternative Fruit Crops for Western Washington](#). This is done by folks at the Mt. Vernon research station.

Insect Update—New information/alerts

Blueberry Gall Midge: The larvae of this tiny midge feed on actively growing vegetative tips often causing them to die ([click here for pictures](#)). 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. We're still evaluating the economic impact of this pest. [Click here](#) for information gathered by Dr. Sheila Fitzpatrick in B.C. on the same species as it occurs on cranberries in British Columbia.

Insect Update—Ongoing information

- 1) Mites:** Now's the time to monitor for mite infestations in raspberries and strawberries. At Ag Central in Lynden, WA there is a mite-brushing machine and microscope for growers to use for counting spider mites as an aid in deciding when and if to treat for them. If you would like to use the equipment, please call Todd Murray at 676-6736 for information.
- 2) Aphids:** Monitor strawberries for Aphids. They can vector viruses in susceptible varieties so economic thresholds can be very low.
- 3) Weevils:** Black Vine and Rough Strawberry Root Weevil adults are present in many strawberry and raspberry fields.
- 4) Raspberry Crown Borers** are now flying. Unfortunately we don't yet have a good pheromone lure for monitoring this flight. You can scout for crown borer damage by looking for weak stands with wilting canes. To see their larvae and damage [click here](#).
- 5) Black-headed fireworm:** Continue to scout cranberries for black-headed fireworm.
- 6) Redberry mite** infected berries are showing up in some late season blackberries. Berries never ripen but remain shiny brick red and hard. Mites feed within the fruit drupelets and are too small to be seen without a strong hand lens or scope. Treatment consists of preventative sulfur applications from budbreak through bloom.

Disease Update—Ongoing information

- 1) Mummyberry:** Some infected berries are showing up in harvested fields; particularly fields that were too wet to be treated in the spring. [Click here](#) for pictures.
- 2) Powdery Mildew:** Some new strawberry fields in the south are showing significant powdery mildew infections.
- 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.
- 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.
- 5) Spur blight** foliar and cane damage is also now visible in some raspberry fields. For information and pictures from the Whatcom Country IPM manual [click here](#).

Cropwork

Raspberries: 1) Treat for cane blight if needed. 2) Scout for rust and treat as needed. 3) Scout for mites. 4) Can plant cover crop. 5) Can cane out if cane disease is a problem. 6) Can take annual tissue and/or soil test.

Blackberries: 1) Scout for mold and treat as needed. 2) Scout for redberry mite damage. 3) Can plant cover crop between rows. 4) Can cane out for summer training. 5) Can take annual tissue and/or soil test. 6) Scout for problem weed areas that could be treated with Casoron or Kerb in the winter.

Blueberries: Harvest ongoing 1) Scout for virus diseases. 2) Implement bird control strategies. 3) Scout for mummyberries. 4) Scout for aphids. 5) Scout for leafroller larvae in rolled up leaves. 6) Scout for weevils.

Strawberries: 1) Scout for root weevil and treat as needed. 2) Scout for two-spotted mites and cyclamen mites. 3) Scout for powdery mildew symptoms. 4) Scout for aphids. 5) Fertilize and water immediately following renovation. 6) Can take soil test on established fields.

Weather for the week

North (Whatcom County): Dry. Highs around 80. Lows around 55.

South (north Willamette Valley): Dry. Cooling as the week goes on. Highs around 85. Lows around 55.

Calendar

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.

September 22 — Oregon Strawberry Commission meeting ~ noon, Mt. Angel Brewery. [Email](#) or call 541-758-4043.

September 29 — Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission meeting ~ 6 pm, Holiday Inn, Wilsonville, OR. [Email](#) or call 541-758-4043.

October 11 — Washington Blueberry Commission meeting ~ Puyallup, WA. For more information, contact Dorothy Anderson 360-766-6150 or by [email](#).

Small Fruit Cold Storage Reports

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>