

Small Fruit Update



Disseminating information for:

Washington

[Washington Red Raspberry Commission](#)

[Washington Blueberry Commission](#)

[Washington Strawberry Commission](#)

Oregon

[Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission](#)

[Oregon Blueberry Commission](#)

[Oregon Strawberry Commission](#)

North American Small Fruit Organizations of Interest:

[North American Blueberry Council](#)

[U.S. Highbush Blueberry Association](#)

[North American Bramble Growers Association](#)

[North American Strawberry Growers Association](#)

[Weather Forecast](#) by Rufus La Lone.

[Small Fruit Cold Storage Reports](#)

May 10, 2005

Southern Blueberries: Bloom is close to finished on mid season varieties. Quite a lot of [botrytis blossom blight](#) has shown up in some fields due to the mild, wet bloom period. [Aphid](#) populations are rising quickly.

Northern Washington Blueberries: [Shock virus](#) symptoms are now very visible. If your field is showing blight type symptoms (flowers and/or foliage look like they're dying just as bloom happens), you can send in a sample for testing. Call Dr. Bob Martin (USDA virologist) at (541) 738-4041 or [email](#) him for details.

B.C. Blueberries: Full bloom right now. The fruit that has set already looks fine at this time. [Scorch blight](#) symptoms are showing up clearly. [Aphid](#) control is necessary now to prevent this virus from spreading.

Southern Raspberries: Bloom is very close to 10%. The cool, wet weather has slowed it down. [Root rot](#) symptoms are becoming very obvious. [Rust](#) is changing over to uredinia spore stage (dusty yellow spores on the underside of the leaves)—a good time to help break the disease cycle with a fungicide application. ([Click here for pictures](#))

Northern Washington Raspberries: Bloom is very close. If you need to treat prebloom for [raspberry beetle](#), now is the time to do it. A lot of [rust](#) is present in the aecia spore stage (yellow rings on top of leaf).

B.C. Raspberries: Bloom is very close. [Root rot](#) symptoms are now showing. Plant canopies are closing in good fields. Malahat and Willamette varieties are showing winter damage.

Southern Blackberries: Marionberry bloom is from 2-5%. Kotata fields are at as much as 30% bloom. Fields are showing very little winter damage but purple blotch and cane and leaf rust infections are heavier than usual.

Southern Strawberries: Bloom is past peak. Fields in southwest Washington have good foliage and yield potential. Mild, wet season has increased the need for mold and slug controls.

B.C. Strawberries: 50% bloom for Totem, 20% Rainier. Virus symptoms are now clearly showing up. To control virus spread, maintain good aphid control and keep new plantings as far away from old ones as possible.

Blueberry Scouting Pocketbooks published by Michigan State are now available at the North Willamette Station front desk. Wei Wang, the OSU blueberry extension agent, ordered 200 copies. They cost \$12.50 each (normally \$14) payable with a check made out to the Agriculture Research Foundation. They can't be mailed. For those of you outside the Station's area, it can be ordered online by going to <http://web2.msue.msu.edu/bulletins/newpubs.cfm> and going to item E2928.

Industry Website of the Week: The [California Strawberry Commission](#). They've got strawberry research going back over fifty years, production budgets and statistics for all growing areas in California and, if you call them up, for \$20 a year you can sign up for a email "pink sheet" that gives up to date weekly shipping figures. All that and recipes, too.

WSU Pathology Position Meeting: The upcoming retirement of Dr. Pete Bristow and the preliminary decision by WSU to eliminate the Small Fruit Pathologist position creates a major gap in the region's small fruit research capabilities. This Thursday (May 12) Dr. Tim Murray, the chair of the WSU pathology department, will be holding a meeting to discuss how to proceed. It will be at 2pm at the WSU Puyallup Station. For details contact [Henry Bierlink](#) 360-354-8767 or [Tom Peerbolt](#) 503-289-7287.

New Pest Information (Click on the blue highlighted name for scouting, pictures and decision-making guide)

Insects:

1) [Aphids](#), blueberries. Our present weather conditions (mild and wet) are conducive to aphid build-ups. They can vector [Blueberry Scorch Virus](#) and should be closely monitored.

2) [Aphids](#), strawberry. Early season aphid control could be necessary in situations where they **vector viruses**.

3) Weevils, strawberries. Very few adults of any species are being found in southern strawberry fields. Most are still in larval stage with some pupating. No early season controls for adults are needed. Adult emergence should start this coming week.

4) Spittlebugs, strawberries. Again, these guys show up in force in mild, wet weather. They cause little economic damage but can interfere with the hand harvesters.

Diseases:

1) **Botrytis blight**, blueberries. See above.

2) **Rust changes**, raspberries. Spore stage is changing in the south. See above.

Ongoing Seasonal Pest Information (Click on blue highlighted name for pictures, scouting and control information)

Insects/ Mites:

1) Weevils:

a) **Clay colored weevil** are now present in some northern raspberry fields.

b) **Rough strawberry root weevil adults** can now be found in some southern strawberry fields.

c) Larvae of other species such as **Black Vine** and **Strawberry weevil** are pupating in southern fields.

2) **Raspberry Beetle**: For more information on the monitoring traps, contact Colleen Burrows at cburrows@wsu.edu.

3) **Orange Tortrix Leafrollers**: Southern caneberries.

4) **Mites**: Low populations of mites are showing up in some **raspberry** and **strawberry** fields.

Diseases:

1) **Virus in blueberries**: **Blueberry Shock virus** and **Scorch virus** symptoms visible in all regions. **Test your field if you suspect virus infection**. You can call Dr. Bob Martin (USDA virologist) to arrange for testing at (541) 738-4041 or [email](mailto:) him.

2) **Mummyberry in blueberries**.

3) **Phytophthora Root Rot**: Raspberries, Strawberries.

4) **Tomato Ringspot Virus**, Raspberries: 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.

Cropwork:

All Crops: 1) Fertilizer applications. 2) Weed control.

Alternate Year blackberries: Can start training new canes in off year fields.

All Caneberries: 1) Get in bees at 10% bloom. 2) Can apply fungicide for fruit mold control starting at 10% bloom. 3) Control primocane growth as needed. 4) Can apply foliar Fosphite, Aliette or equivalent product for root rot control. 5) Can put out pheromone traps for leafrollers. 6) In the north, can put out traps for monitoring raspberry beetle. 7) Scout for rust and control as needed. 8) In the north, scout for clay colored weevil. 9) Scout for mites.

Blueberries: 1) Scout for virus symptoms. 2) Can apply fungicide for blossom blight and fruit mold control while in bloom. 3) Scout for mummyberry and treat as needed. 4) Scout for aphids in fields having or close to fields having blueberry Scorch virus. Control as needed.

Strawberries: 1) Scout weak areas for root weevil larvae, cutworms, strawberry crown borers or root disease problems. 2) Can apply slug bait. 3) Till row centers. 4) Can apply foliar Fosphite, Aliette or equivalent product for root rot control. 5) Plan for fungicide applications for fruit and blossom protection. 6) Scout for aphids and control as needed. 7) Scout for mites.

Calendar

May 11—Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission ~ 5:30 Sweet Briar Inn, Tualatin, OR Call 541-758-4043 or [email](mailto:) for information.

May 12—WSU & Washington small fruit industry meeting ~ 2pm at WSU Puyallup Station, Discussion on the small fruit pathology position. For details contact [Henry Bierlink](mailto:) 360-354-8767 or [Tom Peerbolt](mailto:) 503-289-7287.

May 14—Oregon Blueberry Growers Association Annual Meeting ~5:30 registration, Roth's IGA, West Salem. For more information contact Judy Ebert (503) 663-6451 or by [email](mailto:).

June 1—OSU Strawberry Open House ~ 2:00 pm at North Willamette Reseach & Extension Center, 15210 NEMiley Rd, Aurora OR.

June 2 —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](mailto:).

June 13-14—International Berry Health Benefits Symposium ~ LaSells Stewart Center, Corvallis, OR. [Click here](#) for a pdf file of the brochure.

For an expanded online calendar showing later event information, [click here](#).