

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](#)

British Columbia

[Fraser Valley Strawberry Growers Association](#)
[Raspberry Industry Development Council](#)

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](#)

June 21, 2005

[Small Fruit Cold Storage Reports](#) [Weather Forecast](#) by Rufus La Lone.

Disease Alerts for blackberries:

A couple more signs of the unusual disease pressure that has been brought on by our mild, wet spring in the Willamette Valley and SW Washington growing region:

1) Downy Mildew: boysenberries and Kotata blackberries. The OSU extension agent, Diane Kaufman, states that this is the worse year for this disease since 1993. It can cause major economic damage by drying up and deforming the fruit.

[Click here for photos.](#) Diane says:

- a) Symptoms can be found on the leaves of both primocanes and fruiting canes.
- b) While most leaf disease lesions are round (Septoria, Anthracnose), **downy mildew causes angular, squarer shaped reddish lesions** near the mid-rib of the leaves, or it can look as if someone spilled some red wine along the leaf mid-rib. They are usually found along the mid-vein, but can be anywhere on the leaf.
- c) An **application of Fosphite** (or a similar material) made immediately should be beneficial at stopping the dry fruit stage of this disease.

2) Unknown rust species: evergreen blackberries. There's an unknown rust disease turning up in evergreen fields across the region. Look for a reddish lesion on the top of the leaves and a distinct yellow patch of spores on the underside. It's pretty aggressive but is reported to respond to our usual fungicides labeled for rust. [Click here for photos.](#)

Southern Blueberries: Earliblue and Dukes started picking this week, but with the cool weather fruit isn't coloring very quickly. High early prices are motivating some premature picking—next week should be better quality.

Northern Washington Blueberries: Dukes are showing more color. Several ripe berries per cane now.

B. C. Blueberries: Pollination problems caused by the wet and cool weather during blossom are showing with some entire laterals small-fruited, or at least some berries small enough to call them a loss.

Southern Raspberries: Machine harvesting of Meekers has started—or at least, attempted. Most fruit is still too tightly held to drop. Most insect contaminant clean up sprays have been applied. Hand picked Malahat, Qualicum and some early Coho are now coming in.

Northern Washington Raspberries: Willamette's have started machine harvest. Meekers aren't far behind in Whatcom and some should start this week. No mite problems but a lot of aphids.

B. C. Raspberries: Meeker fields starting to ripen and handpicks are happening. Cleanup sprays are going on most fields in preparation for machine harvest. No major fruit rot problems.

Southern Blackberries: Obsidian, one of the new cultivars, is now being harvested. Silvans start picking this week. Some Kotata could start as early as this coming weekend but most will be late next week. Poor pollination in Marions and Boysens for the fruit that set in mid bloom continues to be a major concern.

Northern Washington Strawberries: (Skagit) The peak harvest is close with good quality. Mold/rot has been minimal.

B.C. Strawberries: Harvest is still going strong, some fields are short of expectations with some two year old fields going down to virus. Other pest problems right now are weevils and fruit rot. Aphid control immediately after harvest to prevent virus spread is a must in fields that will be kept another year.

Southern Strawberries: Harvest is now past it's peak. Quality has been uneven with some fruit rot problems. Labor shortages have made keeping up with the pick difficult for some growers.

Southern Red Currants: Harvest is now ongoing.

Industry Website of the Week: [Rutgers Weekly Blueberry Bulletin](#) done by Dr. Gary Pavlis. Check out what's happening with New Jersey blueberries. It contains a lot of solid blueberry management information.

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

Insects:

1) [Strawberry Crown Moth](#), southern strawberries. The first flight of crown moth started last week in southwest Washington. Timing is essential for control measures to be effective. Click on highlighted pest name to get scouting and control details.

2) [Blueberry Gall Midge](#), blueberries. The first confirmed larvae have been recovered from southern blueberries. [Click here](#) for a PDF file of a recently published OSU bulletin on this insect.

Diseases:

See blackberry alerts above.

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

Insects/ Mites:

1) [Aphids](#), blueberries. Populations are rapidly growing. They can vector [Blueberry Scorch Virus](#) and should be closely monitored. In areas where control of virus spread is critical, the action threshold for control applications is set at a very low aphid population.

2) [Aphids](#), strawberry. Populations are rapidly growing. Aphids **vector many viruses** in strawberries.

3) **Alert!** [Orange Tortrix Leafrollers](#), Southern caneberries. **First instar larvae** continue to be found in southwest Washington fields.

4) **Alert!** [Weevils](#), strawberries. It is time to treat for weevil infestations in southern strawberries. Adults begin laying eggs about four weeks after emergence and need to be killed before starting to lay eggs to prevent a re-infestation next year. Adult emergence of [Black Vine](#), [Strawberry](#) and [Rough Strawberry](#) weevil species is evident in all regions. Scout for leaf notching. **Rough Strawberry** does not notch leaves but can be found by digging around in the detritus at the base of the plants.

5) [Symphylans](#), strawberries:

6) [Raspberry beetle](#), northern raspberries.

7) [Obliquebanded leafrollers](#), Raspberries.

8) [Mites](#), raspberries. Our cool, wet weather continues to hold mites in check.

Diseases:

1) **Virus in blueberries:** [Blueberry Shock virus](#) and [Scorch virus](#) . If your field has shown blight-type symptoms (flowers and/or foliage look like they're dying just as bloom happens), you can (and should) send in a sample for testing. Free! Call Dr. Bob Martin (USDA virologist) at (541) 738-4041 or [email](#) him for details.

2) [Cane and leaf rust](#), blackberries

3) [Yellow Rust](#), raspberries.

4) [Mummyberry](#), blueberries. Fruit symptoms become visible as the fruit begins to size up.

5) [Anthracnose](#): blueberries.

6) [Botrytis blight](#), blueberries.

7) [Powdery Mildew](#), strawberries.

8) [Phytophthora Root Rot](#), raspberries, strawberries.

9) [Botrytis rot](#), strawberries.

10) [Spur Blight](#), raspberries. Leaf symptoms are becoming visible in some fields.

11) [Pseudomonas](#), blueberries. Wet, cool season has increased incidence of pseudomonas tip infections in blueberries.

Cropwork:

All Caneberries: Harvest starting 1) Can put out pheromone traps for leafrollers. 2) Scout for mites. 3) Scout for insect harvest contaminants/apply clean up applications as needed. 4) **Boysens and Kotata:** Scout for downy mildew and treat as needed.

Late ripening blackberries: 1) Can apply sulfur for redberry mite control. 2) Can apply fungicides for fruit mold control. 3) Scout for rust and treat as needed. 4) Scout for harvest contaminants and control as needed.

Blueberries: Harvest starting 1) Scout for virus symptoms. 2) Scout for aphids in fields having or close to fields having blueberry Scorch virus. 3) Can apply fungicide for anthracnose rip rot prevention. 4) Scout for leafroller larvae. 5) Plan for bird damage prevention. 6) Scout for weevils.

Strawberries: Harvest ongoing 1) Scout weak areas for root weevil larvae, cutworms, strawberry crown borers, symphylans or root disease problems. 2) Scout for aphids and control as needed. 3) Scout for mites.

Calendar

June 29 —OSU Caneberry Open House ~ North Willamette Reseach & Extension Center, 15210 NE Miley Rd, Aurora OR. Starts at 2:00 pm. [OSU Caneberry Open House agenda](#)

June 30 —WSU Raspberry 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](#).

July 6 —Raspberry Variety Trial Field Day ~ 2:00-3:00 pm Sakuma Brothers Farm in Burlington, WA. For details

contact [Henry Bierlink](#) 360-354-8767

July 6 —Mt. Vernon Small Fruit Open House ~ 3:00-5:00 pm at the WSU Mt. Vernon Research & Extension Center. For more information contact Pat Moore, phone 253-445-4525 or [email](#)

July 7—OSU Blueberry Field Day~ North Willamette Reseach & Extension Center, 15210 NE Miley Rd, Aurora OR. From 1:00 to 5:00 pm. [Click here](#) for the agenda.

July 11 —Raspberry Variety Trial Field Day ~ Randy Honcoop's farm, 9696 Northwood Rd., Lynden, WA. For details contact [Henry Bierlink](#) 360-354-8767 or [Tom Peerbolt](#) 503-289-728.

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