

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](#)

July 12, 2005

[Event Calendar](#)

[Small Fruit Cold Storage Reports](#)

[Weather Forecast](#) by Rufus La Lone

(Reminder—'South' refers to the Willamette Valley and southwest Washington. **North Washington** refers primarily to Whatcom and Skagit counties)

Southern Blueberries: Dukes are into their second pick. Bluecrop and Earliblues are also coming in. Duke is showing less soft fruit and mold issues than the other varieties. Brigittas start this week.

Northern Washington & B. C. Blueberries: Dukes are well into their harvest with Bluecrop now getting going.

Southern Raspberries: Fruit quality continues to be the big issue with IQF grade hard to find. Mold and soft fruit...

Northern Washington Raspberries & B. C. Raspberries: It's pretty much the same story as the south. A lot of fruit quality issues. The crop quantity is looking close to or a little larger than last year with not a lot going into IQF at this time.

Southern Blackberries: Marionberries are coming in steadily although some fields haven't started. Boysenberry and Kotata harvests are ongoing. Kotatas are past peak in some fields. Mold and soft fruit issues...

Strawberries: Harvest done. Fields are being renovated. It's a good time for controlling perennial weeds. Keep up on aphid and weevil control. Aphid control for limiting virus spread is particularly important in the north.

National Berry Crop Initiative: An effort, coordinated by the USDA, is being initiated to formulate a **national strategic research and Extension plan for berry crops**. Formed as a partnership of industry, academia and government, input by all segments of the industry is going to be needed to make this successful. [Click here](#) for PDF file of the preliminary draft document. For more information, you can contact [Philip Gutt](#) (NWCSFR, OSC and ORBC), [Henry Bierlink](#) (WRRC) or [Tom Peerbolt](#) (Peerbolt Crop Management).

Industry Positions:

1) Small Fruit Nursery Research Director for Sakuma Bros. Farms: Covering strawberry, raspberry, blackberry, blueberry and apples for their WA and CA operations. PhD or Masters degree in horticulture or plant pathology or related field with a minimum of 4 yrs experience in the seed or nursery industry and a minimum of 5 years of management experience, or an equivalent education and experience. Must have technical knowledge of plant production, tissue culture, propagation, plant pathology, and entomology. Salary DOE, full benefits. Please send resume & references to: Sakuma Bros. Farms, Inc., HR Dept, PO Box 427, Burlington, WA 98233 or by [e-mail](#).

2) OSU Cranberry Extension Position: This is a tenure track position in the department of horticulture at Oregon State University, located in Coos and Curry counties on the southern Oregon Coast. The position focuses mainly on cranberries, but includes other commercial horticultural crops (i.e. lily bulbs). [Click here for more information](#).

Small Fruit Update Archives: A reminder that we have posted an archive of all past Small Fruit Updates on our business website. There is a lag time of about a month before the most recent Updates will be found there.

Industry Website of the Week: Craig MacConnell, Whatcom County's extension agent, passed along this connection to a newsletter about the **Polish small fruit industry**. [Click here](#) for the 9-page PDF file (it takes a while to download it). They've got a lot of raspberries, blackberries and strawberries in Eastern Europe.

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

Insects/ Mites:

- 1) [Strawberry Crown Moth](#), southern strawberries. [Click here for recent photo](#).
- 2) [Blueberry Gall Midge](#), blueberries [Click here](#) for a PDF file of a recently published OSU bulletin on this insect.
- 3) [Aphids](#), blueberries. They can vector [Blueberry Scorch Virus](#) and should be closely monitored.
- 4) [Aphids](#), strawberry. Post harvest control can be necessary in areas with high virus pressure.
- 5) [Orange Tortrix Leafrollers](#), Southern caneberries.
- 6) [Weevils](#), strawberries. [Black Vine](#), [Strawberry](#) and [Rough Strawberry](#) root weevils.
- 7) [Symphylans](#), strawberries:
- 8) [Raspberry beetle](#), northern raspberries.
- 9) [Obliquebanded leafrollers](#), Raspberries, blueberries.
- 10) [Mites](#), raspberries.

Diseases:

- 1) **New Rust in Evergreen Blackberries:** It looks like the rust we've been finding in Evergreen blackberries is the same species as the one that the Oregon Department of Agriculture had earlier found occurring on Himalayan blackberries in southern Oregon (*Phragmidium violaceum*). It has been used as a biocontrol agent for Himalayans in some other countries, and how it found its way here is unknown. The impact it will have on our caneberry crops and natives is as yet undetermined. Right now it has only been found on Evergreens and Himalayans. The confirmed range of this disease in Evergreens is from the mid-Willamette Valley up to Woodland, Washington. [Click here](#) for the Oregon Department of Ag.'s press release from late May.
- 2) [Downy Mildew](#), boysenberries and Kotata blackberries. It can cause major economic damage by drying up and deforming the fruit. [Click here for photos](#) An **application of Fosphite** (or a similar material) made immediately could be beneficial at stopping the dry fruit stage of this disease.
- 3) [Alternaria](#), blueberries.
- 4) [Anthracnose](#), blueberries.
- 5) **Fruit Rot (botrytis)**, [raspberries](#), [blackberries](#), [blueberries](#).
- 6) **Virus in blueberries:** [Blueberry Shock virus](#) and [Scorch virus](#).
- 7) [Yellow Rust](#), raspberries.
- 8) [Mummyberry](#), blueberries. Fruit symptoms become visible as the fruit begins to size up.
- 9) [Powdery Mildew](#), strawberries.
- 10) [Phytophthora Root Rot](#), raspberries, strawberries.

Other Pests:

[Birds](#), blueberries. Fruit damage from birds is causing significant losses in some fields.

Cropwork:

Newly planted baby fields—all crops: 1) Control weeds. 2) Fertilize. 3) Scout for aphids and control as needed.

All Caneberries: Harvest ongoing 1) Control harvest contaminants as needed. 2) Scout for mites. 3) Can apply fungicides for mold control between picks if 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 ongoing 1) Implement bird control program. 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 harvest contaminants and control as needed.

Strawberries: Harvest finished 1) Scout weak areas for root weevil larvae, cutworms, strawberry crown moth, symphylans or root disease problems. 2) Scout for aphids and control as needed. 3) Scout for mites. 4) (south) Treat for Strawberry Crown Moth if needed 5) Plan to renovate fields about four weeks after harvest. 6) Can take soil fertility samples right after harvest. 7) Scout for powdery mildew and treat as needed.