

# 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](#)

## August 2, 2005

[Event Calendar](#)

[Small Fruit Cold Storage Reports](#)

[Weather Forecast](#) by Rufus La Lone

**Southern Blueberries:** Fresh market quantities are dropping off and the price is picking up. Heat damage is showing as soft, sunburned and wrinkled fruit. Blue Crop is pretty much finished. Brigitta are into their second pick with good quality. Ozark Blue is also into the second pick with excellent quality. Elliots are into their first pick with some heat damage.

**Northern Washington Blueberries:** Dukes are done. Reka's first pick finishing up last week with one more machine pick to go. 1613A's (Hardyblue's) will start this week.

**B. C. Blueberries:** Blueberries ripening rapidly with the heat. Mid season varieties will be done soon.

**Southern Raspberries:** The last picks are happening right now. Primocane variety, Caroline, should start in about a week.

**Northern Washington Raspberries & B. C. Raspberries:** Some Meekers are still picking but are close to done in Whatcom County. B.C. is finished machine harvest this last weekend.

**Southern Blackberries:** Still some Marionberries coming in. Smaller size, some sunburn and beater damage. Boysens are finished. Evergreen, Chester and Hull have started. Triple Crown is peaking.

**Southern Currants:** Red and White currant harvest is in progress. The red variety Rovada is producing excellent quality.

**Strawberry and Blueberry Post Harvest:** 1) Maintain **aphid control** to prevent virus spread. [Click for picture](#). 2) Irrigate, irrigate, irrigate

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

### Diseases

**[New Rust in Evergreen Blackberries, \(Phragmidium violaceum\):](#)**

1) **Latest Oregon Department of Ag. Press release on New Blackberry Rust Disease:** [Click Here](#). While certain fields are showing significant yield losses, most of the Oregon evergreen crop appears to be intact at this time. Click here for disease information and treatment options.

2) **The Northwest Center for Small Fruit Research**, in consultation with the Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission, has revised the **blackberry priority list** for research proposals to include a #1 priority ranking for **research on the exotic rust** (Phragmidium violaceum). [Click here for the Center's request for proposals](#) (due August 26).

### Insects

**Redberry mite**, blackberries: Infested 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. Too late now...

**Industry Website of the Week (again!):** A correction from last week: The [North American Bramble Growers Association](#) (not the "National Bramble Growers Association" as I called them last week) has a new and improved website.

**Timing of pruning out old canes:** Cane out old floricanes now if cane disease is a problem in red raspberries and trailing blackberries that are done fruiting. If cane disease isn't a problem, wait until October or so for better plant health, improved cold hardiness and less overwintering habitat for leafrollers.

**Post harvest blackberry fertilizer applications:** Dr. Bernadine Strik, the OSU small fruit horticulturalist, advises against post harvest nitrogen applications in trailing blackberries as it can cause a late flush of growth and increase the risk of cold damage by an early cold spell. Her research has shown that fertilizer nitrogen is not needed this time of year, as there's plenty in the soil for plants to take up if they need it.

### **Cropwork**

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

**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. 4) Can plant cover crop between rows. 5) Can cane out if cane disease is a problem. 6) Can take annual soil test.

**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 mummyberries. 4) Scout for aphids. 5) Scout for leafroller larvae in rolled up leaves. 6) Scout for weevils.

**Strawberries: Harvest finished** 1) Scout weak areas for root weevil, cutworms, strawberry crown moth, symphylans or root disease problems. 2) Scout for two-spotted mites and cyclamen mites. 3) Scout for powdery mildew symptoms. 4) Scout for aphids. 5) Plan to renovate fields about four weeks after harvest. 6) Fertilize and water immediately following renovation. 7) Can take soil test on established fields.

### **Meetings this week:**

**August 5 —Meeting with Dr. Tom Walters, WSU new small fruit horticulturist** ~ 9 am at the WSU Mt Vernon Research and Extension Center.

**August 9 —Meeting with Dr. Tom Walters, WSU new small fruit horticulturist** ~ 9 am at the Washington Red Raspberry Commission office, 1796 Front St., Lynden.

[Extended event calendar](#)

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

### **Insects/ Mites:**

1) **Blueberry Gall Midge**, blueberries. High infestation rates in many fields. The growing tips become distorted and die. [Click here](#) for a PDF file of an OSU bulletin on this insect.

2) **Mites**, raspberries.

3) **Aphids**, northern raspberries. Populations are low. Parasitism rate appears to be good, helping to moderate any potential problems.

4) **Strawberry Crown Moth**, southern strawberries.

5) **Aphids**, blueberries. They can vector [Blueberry Scorch Virus](#) and should be closely monitored.

6) **Aphids**, strawberry. Post harvest control can be necessary in areas with high virus pressure.

7) **Orange Tortrix Leafrollers**, Southern caneberries.

8) **Weevils**, strawberries. [Black Vine](#), [Strawberry](#) and [Rough Strawberry](#) root weevils.

9) **Raspberry beetle**, northern raspberries.

10) **Obliquebanded leafrollers**, Raspberries, blueberries.

### **Diseases:**

1) **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.

2) **Cane Blight**, raspberries: The window for treating raspberries for cane blight is immediately following harvest. Infection takes place by water splashing spores into the machine catcher plate wounds on the primocanes.

3) **Yellow Rust**, raspberries.

4) **Alternaria**, blueberries.

5) **Anthraxnose**, blueberries.

6) **Fruit Rot (botrytis)**, [raspberries](#), [blackberries](#), [blueberries](#).

7) **Virus in blueberries**: [Blueberry Shock virus](#) and [Scorch virus](#).

8) **Mummyberry**, blueberries.

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.