

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 9, 2005

[Event Calendar](#) [Small Fruit Cold Storage Reports](#) [Weather Forecast](#) by Rufus La Lone
Next week's Update will be out on Wednesday 8/17/05—time for a couple of days off...

Southern Blueberries: Bluecrop is just finishing up. Ozarkblue is into the second pick. Elliott yields look about the same as last year with pretty good quality—some soft fruit. The rabbiteye variety, Powderblue, should start picking next week.

Northern Washington Blueberries: Duke finished with good yields. Bluecrop has started and looks to be down some in yield due to a lower than average fruit set.

Southern Blackberries: Marions are finished. Hulls and Waldos have about peaked. Evergreen machine harvesting will start this week. The crop is looking to be intact at the major growers in spite of the exotic rust disease. On the fresh market side, Chesters are coming in and look good. Triple Crown quality has struggled with sunburn and small size issues. Evergreens are also coming in small—too small for some fresh marketers to accept.

Northern Washington Raspberries: Harvest is done with most growers reporting respectable yields.

Raspberry Post Harvest:

1) Oregon State's small fruit Extension agent, Diane Kaufman, says that a field trial this past year indicated that [Pristine](#) is an excellent material for **cane blight control** in 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.

2) In the north, some growers are starting **post harvest subsoiling, tilling and pruning**. In the south, we usually wait until fall for these activities to allow more nutrients in the dying floricanes to move back into the plant crown. In the north, labor availability and more fall rains influence when these activities take place.

3) **Mite flare-ups** can occur at this time. Some Southern fields are showing high populations of [Stethorus beetles](#) that feed on mites. Predatory mites can also contribute to containing mite outbreaks without the need to apply a miticide. Monitor closely both mite and predator populations to determine if control measures are needed.

Strawberry and Blueberry Post Harvest: 1) Renovate. 2) Maintain **aphid control** to prevent virus spread. 3) **Irrigate!**

Meeting with Dr. Tom Walters, WSU new small fruit horticulturist: Take advantage of the opportunity to direct Tom into the priority research areas of most importance to you. **Thursday, August 11** ~ 9 am at the WSU Vancouver Research station, 1919 NE 78th Street, Vancouver, WA. Call [Tom Peerbolt](#) at 503-289-7287 for information.

Celebration for Pete Bristow! Sunday, August 21, 2:00-5:00 PM. Allmendinger Center WSU Puyallup Research & Extension Center. For details, [click here](#). RSVP by August 18th to [Mickey Bean](#) 253-445-4554

Corrected Cultivar Spellings: Chad Finn, our USDA small fruit plant breeder, has been awarded the first ever prize for most errors caught in a Small Fruit Update. The corrected spellings for the blueberry cultivars mentioned last week are 1) **Bluecrop** (not 'Blue Crop') 2) **Ozarkblue** (not 'Ozark Blue') and **Elliott** (not 'Elliot'). You too could be a winner...

National Berry Crops Initiative Workshop: A workshop is scheduled for October 25th and 26th in Geneva, New York to organize the NBCI. This meeting will include growers, researchers, industry and government representatives to **review research priorities** and discuss ways to coordinate a **possible national berry crops organization**. Representatives

from the various northwest small fruit commodity groups will, hopefully, be there. More information will be available soon. [Click here](#) for a PDF file of the preliminary draft document.

North American Berry Conference: The North American Strawberry Growers Association (NASGA) will be held January 4-6 in Savannah, Georgia. It's usually in February but this year has moved to coincide with the Southeast regional Fruit and Vegetable Conference that will be in the same location on January 6-8. [Click here](#) for information and registration details.

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

New Rust in Evergreen Blackberries, (*Phragmidium violaceum*): Next week a number of OSU and ODA researchers will be meeting to discuss the next steps in understanding and controlling this disease. [Click here](#) for the Oregon Department of Ag's latest press release (dated 8/3)

Cropwork

Late Ripening 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.

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) Renovate fields about four weeks after harvest. 6) Fertilize and water immediately following renovation. 7) Can take soil test on established fields.

Raspberries: Harvest finished. 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.

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

Insects/ Mites:

1) **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.

2) **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.

3) **Mites**, raspberries.

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

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

6) **Orange Tortrix Leafrollers**, Southern blackberries.

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

Diseases:

1) **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.

2) **Alternaria**, blueberries.

3) **Anthraxnose**, blueberries.

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

5) **Mummyberry**, blueberries.

6) **Phytophthora Root Rot**, raspberries, strawberries.

Other Pests:

[Birds](#), blueberries.