

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](#)

September 20, 2005

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

Blackberries: Evergreen harvest is winding down. While quality has been excellent, it is now declining. In general yields and fruit size are off. However, considering the appearance of the new Phragmidium rust disease, for most Evergreen growers, it has been a successful season. That won't help those who had major losses from the disease but does offer some hope for its control in the future.

National Berry Crops Initiative Workshop: [Click here](#) for information and registration information on a workshop scheduled for October 24-26 at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station in Geneva, New York. Representatives and researchers from berry organizations from around the country will be working on plans to coordinate our efforts for a sustainable berry industry. Deadline for registration is Friday, October 14.

Commission meetings coming up

- 1) **September 22 —Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission meeting** ~ 6 pm at the Sweet brier Inn, Tualatin. For more information call the ORBC office at 541-758-4043 or [email](#).
- 2) **October 10 —Washington Blueberry Commission meeting** ~ 10 am in the Chicona Room in the Administration Building at WSU Puyallup. For more information call Dorothy Anderson (360) 766-6150 or [email](#).
- 3) **October 12— Oregon Strawberry Commission meeting** ~ 11:30 am at the Mt Angel Brewery in Mt Angel. For more information call the OSC office at 541-758-4043 or [email](#).

Upcoming Grant Opportunities

- 1) **The Washington Red Raspberry Commission** is seeking **research proposals** from both public and private researchers. [Click here for priorities](#). The deadline for proposals is October 21. Contact [Tom Peerbolt](#) or [Henry Bierlink](#) for more information.
- 2) **The Washington State Commission on Pesticide Registration** is seeking **research proposals**. They must be received at least 30 days before the meeting at which they will be presented. Meeting dates are October 25-26 and January 10-11. [Click here](#) for details.

Northwest Research Resources now Available Three resources previously password protected for use by the Small Fruit Working Group are now publicly accessible. They are all on the [Northwest IPM](#) website:

- 1) A listing of all [the small fruit research priorities](#) of the British Columbia, Washington and Oregon commodity groups.
- 2) A listing of contact information for northwest [small fruit researchers](#), public and private.
- 3) A [database of small fruit grants](#) that can be searched by granting agency name or by deadline date.

National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) Chemical Use Survey : Joe DeFrancesco (OSU's pest management specialist) would like to encourage growers to cooperate with this survey taking place between **mid-October and early-December**. Having accurate information about **chemical use in berry crops** is critical when EPA makes decisions about pesticide registrations or re-registrations. It gives them "real-life" information so they don't have to rely on assumptions or worse-case scenarios. Having reliable chemical use statistics also helps Joe when writing the justification for a Section 18 or getting queries about pest management from EPA or USDA. The information that growers provide gets tallied up for a

summary, but individual sources are confidential. This year, NASS will be collecting information about chemical use in **caneberries and blueberries**; strawberries will be surveyed next year.

Job Opening:

British Columbia Blueberry Industry Virus Research and Extension Coordinator: The BC Blueberry Council is the seeking someone to coordinate research work and develop management strategies and educational programs to minimize the spread and impact of blueberry scorch virus and other potentially threatening diseases. [Click here for details.](#)

New Pest Information:

- 1) **Aphids**, strawberry. With the cooler weather, aphids are once again building up in strawberries. Post harvest control can be necessary in areas with high virus pressure.
- 2) **Strawberry Crown Moth**: Some first year strawberry fields in the South are showing major damage from SCM infestation. Infested plants either completely collapse or are greatly weakened and show premature reddening.

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

Vertebrate Pests:

Voles: [Click here](#) for information on population-monitoring methods. If populations are still too high after baiting with a Zinc Phosphide product, it's best to use an anti-coagulant for the second treatment. Zinc Phosphide can cause bait shyness in the surviving population."

Insects/ Mites:

- 1) **Weevils**, strawberries. [Black Vine](#), [Strawberry](#) and [Rough Strawberry](#) root weevils. As the weather cools, adults re-emerge from the soil. [Rough Strawberry root weevils](#) lay eggs in the fall as well as the spring and control measures need to be considered in problem areas.
- 2) **Obliquebanded leafrollers**: An OBLR hatch is ongoing in southwestern Washington caneberries.
- 3) **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.
- 4) **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.
- 5) **Aphids**, blueberries. They can vector [Blueberry Scorch Virus](#) and should be closely monitored.
- 6) **Mites: strawberries ; raspberries.**
- 7) **Cyclamen mites**, strawberries.

Diseases:

- 1) **Rust in Evergreen Blackberries**, (Phragmidium violaceum): **Advice from our researchers:** There is concern that the weather in September will be conducive to another cycle of infective spores. They surmise that lows in the 50's and highs in the 70's, especially with heavy morning dew or fog coupled with new growth are good conditions for the rust to be active. They suggest an application of one of our labeled materials (Abound, Rally or Pristine), concentrating only on the primocanes since rusts are particularly fond of new growth. As we cool off and are seeing highs around 60, they expect that the disease will shut down for the winter.
- 2) **Phytophthora Root Rot**, raspberries, strawberries.
- 3) **Powdery Mildew**, strawberries.

Cropwork (post harvest)

All Crops: Weed control.

Raspberries: 1) Scout for rust. 2) Scout for mites. 3) Can plant cover crop. 4) Can cane out. 5) Can take tissue and/or soil tests. 6) Scout and mark problem weed areas that could be treated in the winter.

Blackberries: 1) Can plant cover crop between rows. 2) Can cane out for summer training. 3) Can take tissue and/or soil test. 4) Scout and mark problem weed areas that could be treated in the winter. 5) Scout for rust.

Blueberries: 1) Scout for aphids. 2) Can take tissue and/or soil tests. 3) Scout for Blueberry Tip Midge. 4) Scout for weevil feeding on lower suckers.

Strawberries: 1) Scout for root weevils. 2) Scout for two-spotted mites and cyclamen mites. 3) Scout for powdery mildew symptoms. 4) Scout for aphids. 5) Scout for Strawberry Crown Moth damage