

Small Fruit Update



April 18, 2006

[Event Calendar](#)

[Small Fruit Cold Storage Reports](#)

[Weather Forecast](#) by Rufus La Lone

Crop Updates:

Crop development remains slow with the cool, wet weather this last week. Warming and drying today and this coming week should bring things along quickly.

Oregon blackberries: Reminders: 1) Treat evergreens for blackberry rust (*Phragmidium violaceum*). [Click here](#) for information and options. 2) Treat Boysenberries and Kotata blackberries for [Downey mildew](#).

Canadian raspberries: A lot of rain this past week. Yellowing and some barren spots on especially looped canes on the tops. Raspberries (Meekers) seem to be really struggling with slow bud development. Needing (and hoping for) a quick warming and drying up or we could see an increase in root death from lack of oxygen in some fields.

Skagit County raspberries: Raspberries continue to look poor. Even the buds that have pushed are far more yellow than normal.

Whatcom County raspberries: Same problems as above with Meekers. Some growers are applying foliar urea, magnesium, boron, and phosphite to try to stimulate lateral growth.

Oregon/Southwest Washington raspberries: Region has been a little drier than the north but growth also continues to be slow. Caneburning is ongoing. Some foliar fertilizers and phosphites are being applied.

Southwest Washington strawberries: Sporadic bloom is showing up. This week's forecast of highs in the 60's (15.5°C) should get plants moving.

Canadian blueberries: Northland is into bloom. Reka is in early bloom as well as Earliblue. **Reminder:** This week could be the last chance to get on a prebloom aphid control spray. This application is critical to controlling the spread of blueberry scorch virus.

Skagit County blueberries: Blueberry damage from cold continues to look very minor, no major damage visible.

Whatcom County blueberries: Bloom has started in Northland, close in Duke.

Oregon blueberries: Bloom is coming along although with very few bees were willing to venture out this past week. Rubel bloom in the Hillsboro area is around 20%, with Duke also showing around 10%. Today was sunny and warm with a lot of bee activity.

Industry Updates:

1) Raspberry Selection Puree Evaluation: Thursday, April 20 from 10:00 am to noon, North Willamette Research and Extension Center, Aurora, OR. Contact [Brian Yorgey](#) at OSU (541 737-6496) or [click here for information](#).

2) WSU/WRRRC Machine Harvesting Field Day at Sakuma Bros in Mt. Vernon, WA is scheduled for July 6 from 2:00-3:00. There are 78 different WSU and Canadian selections in this planting along with the cultivars Meeker, Willamette, Cowichan and Cascade Bounty.

Disease Alerts:

[Scorch Virus/ Aphid Control](#), blueberries: (northern growing areas) A prebloom aphid control application has been demonstrated to be a **critical component of a good Integrated Pest Management program** to inhibit the spread of Blueberry Scorch Virus. It knocks down the small, overwintering aphid population and maximizes the ability of beneficial insect/aphid predator populations to control aphid outbreaks later in the year. An application now can **save your plants from virus infection** as well as lessen the need for later, less effective insecticide applications that are also much more detrimental to the beneficial insects.

New pest Information

[Downey Mildew](#), blackberries: Boysenberries and Kotata blackberries are most prone to this disease. It's about time for Aliette/Phosphite applications to help prevent outbreaks.

Ongoing Seasonal Pest Information

Insects/Mites

1) [Clay colored weevil](#), northern raspberries. Active now. Scout for laterals that have been clipped off and/or leaf notching.

2) [Winter Moth](#), blueberries.

3) [Weevils](#), strawberries: [Rough Strawberry root weevil](#), [Black Vine root weevils](#), [Strawberry root weevils](#)

- 4) [Orange Tortrix Leafrollers](#), southern caneberries.
- 5) [Obliquebanded Leafrollers](#), northern blueberries.
- 6) [Aphids](#), blueberries. Present on leaves and flower clusters in low numbers. These aphids will produce a generation of winged aphids later in the season. Winged aphids are a concern because they spread the **scorch virus**.

Diseases

- 1) [Mummyberry](#): blueberries. Spores are now being released from overwintering mummyberries. [Click here](#) for scouting and control details as well as photos.
- 2) [Phragmidium Rust](#): **Evergreen blackberries**: The present 'best guess' spray timing looks to be the end of this week when there will be both enough new growth to protect and enough field germination of the overwintering spores to optimize the fungicide's effectiveness. [Click here](#) for the SLN Oregon Rally fungicide label. [Click here for updated information on the disease and recent fungicide trials.](#)
- 3) [Shock Virus](#), blueberries. Virus symptoms are now present in some southern blueberry fields. The newly developing buds suddenly turn black and die. Infected plants recover but produce no crop for a year. No treatments are available.
- 4) [Scorch virus](#) symptoms are also due to show up in blueberries. It looks very similar to Shock but is much more serious since plants don't recover and should be immediately removed to prevent spread by aphids. If you suspect that your blueberry field has a virus problem you can call Bob Martin (USDA small fruit virologist) to arrange for free testing at (541) 738-4041 or [email](#) him.
- 5) [Bacterial Blight](#) (*Pseudomonas syringae*): blueberries.
- 6) [Yellow rust](#), raspberries.

Cropwork:

All Crops: 1) Can apply fertilizer. 2) Weed control.

All Caneberries: 1) Scout for cane diseases.

Raspberries: 1) (Northern growing areas) Scout for Clay colored weevil. 2) Control primocane growth as needed. 3) (Southern growing areas) Put out pheromone traps for leafroller monitoring. 4) (Northern growing areas) Can put out traps for monitoring raspberry beetle. 5) Can apply foliar fertilizers 6) Can apply Aliette or equivalent phosphite foliar for root rot control.

Evergreen Blackberries: Apply fungicide for prevention of blackberry rust infections.

Blackberries/Boysenberries: Apply Aliette/phosphite for Downey Mildew control.

Blueberries: 1) Scout for Winter Moth feeding. 2) Scout for mummyberries/control as needed. 3) Make preparations to bring in bees around 10-15% bloom. 4) Scout for virus symptoms. 5) Apply prebloom aphid control insecticide as needed. 6) Can apply fungicide for fruit mold control at 10% bloom. This can also help twig dieback from botrytis infections.

Strawberries: 1) Check weak areas for root weevil larvae, strawberry crown borers or root disease problems. 2) Can apply slug bait. 3) Till row centers. 4) Can apply foliar Fosphite, Aliette or equivalent product for root rot control. 5) Plan for fungicide application to prevent fruit mold at 10% bloom.

Chemical Control Update (U.S.):

OSU Newsletter Correction: Diane Kaufman, OSU Extension agent, has a correction for information included in the recent OSU strawberry newsletter. The **PHI for Acramite** was listed as 14 days and it actually has a 1-day PHI.