

Small Fruit Update



April 25, 2006

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

We're getting a great weather break. The dry, warm weather will help contain outbreaks of fungal diseases like blackberry rust, mummyberry in blueberries and yellow rust in raspberries.

Along with the bloom, **virus disease symptoms** are also showing up in blueberries. [Click here](#) for information and photos. If in doubt about whether your plants have a virus (or what the virus is), contact Bob Martin (USDA small fruit virologist) to arrange for **free testing** at (541) 738-4041 or [email](#) him.

Crop Updates:

Oregon blackberries: Marionberry winter damage is now becoming easier to assess. Many February trained and weaker EY (cropped every year as opposed to AY that are cropped in alternate years) fields in the Woodburn/Mt. Angel area have been severely impacted. Damage in other areas is less. Impact on statewide crop yield compared to previous years is difficult to calculate due to the variation in damage and the new acreage that will be harvested for the first time this year. Some **boysenberry** fields also show major losses. **Kotata** and **Silvan** have also been impacted. Caneburning is now ongoing.

Canadian raspberries: Primocane burns are completed and first fertilizer applications are winding up on late fields. Lots of clay colored weevil activity now.

Whatcom County raspberries: As in the other regions, Meekers (especially older fields) are showing stunted laterals. It's too early to know if the warmer weather will help them to fill out and proceed with normal growth. Clay weevils are coming on, watch for flagging (laterals that have been partially chewed off). Most caneburning is done.

Oregon/Southwest Washington raspberries: The younger fields are showing some decent growth and color. Older fields still pretty spotty. Rust is becoming more visible and fungicide applications will be going on later this week for rust control.

Canadian blueberries: Dukes and Bluejay now into early bloom. Bees are being moved into fields in a big way. Bees have been very active with the good weather. Quite a bit of bumblebee activity-- a very good sign. This is a nervous time of the year with the bloom. Hail fell in parts of Abbotsford last Monday, April 17. Some leaf shredding and pink bud knockdown in localized fields but no apparent serious damage. Had a pretty good frost on morning of April 21.

Whatcom County blueberries: Erratic bloom development has been evident but the warmer weather should help a lot. Beehives are now going in.

Oregon blueberries: Bloom is coming on very quickly now. A lot of bee activity and a very good weather break this week. Looks good. Bloom sprays are ongoing. Some frost protection sprinkling was in use this past week.

Whatcom County strawberries: Fruiting spurs are starting to push. Time to scout for aphids and apply pre-bloom controls if needed to help control the spread of aphid borne viruses.

Oregon/SW Washington strawberries: Early season Honeoye are past 10% bloom. Totems are moving quickly and will hit 10% later this week.

Industry Updates:

1) Wednesday, May 3, 9 AM Special Washington Red Raspberry Board meeting Via teleconference. Those wishing to listen in can come to the WRRRC office in Lynden or contact the commission for the access information (360-354-8767). **Issues:** Report on the recent DC trip, Update on Marketing Order Options, Update on the developing Marketing Strategy, and an agenda for the Serbia International Raspberry Association meeting in June.

2) 2005 Oregon Blueberry Crop: The final figure is 34,082,200. Just a few pounds over last year's record setting total.

Chemical Control Update (U.S.):

Insecticide, Washington caneberries. A Special Local Needs label has been issued by the state of Washington for the use of **MSR for aphid control in nonbearing caneberries**. [Click here](#) for a copy of the label. Industry folks in Whatcom County have been working with Gowan for many years to make this happen.

New pest Information

Insects/Mites

Mites, raspberries. We're finding small populations of mites in some SW Washington raspberry fields. [Yellow mites](#) and [Twospotted mites](#) are both potential problems with this warm, dry weather window.

Diseases

- 1) Phragmidium Rust, Evergreen blackberries:** From Dr. Ken Johnson at OSU: "The week of May 1 would be about the earliest we could expect to see new infections in the field, but with the dry conditions since April 17, these infections may be hard to find. Best guess control program from this point forward: Walt Mahaffee (USDA-ARS) has shown the rust fungus grows fastest with temperatures in the 50s and 60s, and that the spores require wetness periods of at least 6-7 hours to get inside the plant. These conditions are likely to occur in May once it starts raining again, or irrigation becomes necessary. Also, with irrigation, sets initiated early in the morning avoid infection conditions because the leaf canopy has a chance to dry before nightfall." **Suggested control program:** **1)** Scout Evergreen fields in early May for rust infections. Focus the scouting effort on new leaves positioned four to eight nodes from the shoot tip. **2)** Early May prior to rain event, apply Abound at 15.4 oz. per acre. **3)** Approximately 10 days later (mid-May), apply Rally at 5 oz. per acre. **4)** Approximately 2 weeks later, as bloom begins in early June, apply Pristine at 23 oz. per acre. **5)** Consider another treatment of Rally in late-June if the rust appears to be active in the field.
- 2) Mummyberry, blueberries.** The secondary infection stage, a dieback of infected vegetative growth, is now visible in some southern fields.
- 3) Cane and Leaf Rust, blackberries.** This disease is now visible and can be mistaken for the much more serious, Blackberry Rust (*Phragmidium violaceum*). It can cause brittle canes and some defoliation but is much less virulent than the Blackberry Rust.
- 4) Tomato Ringspot Virus, raspberries:** A chevron pattern on some raspberry leaves infected with Tomato Ringspot Virus is now appearing in the south. This is the only time of year this symptom is visible. This virus is vectored by dagger nematodes and causes a significant decrease in vigor. Check weak areas for symptoms.

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.**

Diseases

- 1) Shock Virus, blueberries.**
- 2) Scorch virus, blueberries.** 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.
- 3) Yellow rust, raspberries.**
- 4) Downey Mildew, blackberries:** Boysenberries and Kotata blackberries are most prone to this disease.

Cropwork:

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

All Caneberries: 1) Scout for cane diseases. 2) Can apply foliar fertilizers. 3) Can apply Aliette or equivalent phosphite foliar for root rot control. 4) Scout for rust.

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) Scout for mites.

Evergreen Blackberries: 1) Apply fungicide for prevention of blackberry rust infections. 2) Can apply sulfur for redberry mite control.

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) Scout for secondary Mummyberry infections (dying vegetative tips). 6) Can apply fungicide for fruit mold control at 10% bloom. 7) Scout for cane and twig disease symptoms.

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. 6) Scout for mites. 7) Scout for virus symptoms (distorted leaves/new growth).