June 7, 2006
Event Calendar Small Fruit Cold Storage Reports Weather Forecast by Rufus La Lone
Pest Alerts:
1) Orange Tortrix Leafrollers, southern caneberries: Very small, first instar larvae have been found in some caneberry fields in SW Washington, Sauvie Island and the central Willamette Valley. Only a few have been found so far but it indicates the start of their hatch cycle. In fields with chronic O.T. harvest contaminant problems, it's time to treat with bee safe materials. These include Spinosad (night applications only), Confirm (Tebufenozide) and BT formulations. These are all much more effective on smaller larvae so don't wait too long to treat. Scout your field before applying to be sure the larvae are present, otherwise you might be wasting an application due to bad timing.
2) Strawberry Crown Moth, southern strawberries and caneberries. The first adult crown moths have been picked up in pheromone traps in SW Washington. Effective treatment depends on timing the first insecticide application to 10-14 days after first emergence. A repeat application is often needed 10-14 days after the first so monitor the traps frequently to determine if, when, and how often to treat.
3) Pseudomonas Tip Blight, blueberries: A blight symptom most likely being caused by Pseudomonas (not all testing has been completed) has shown up across our region. Blackened new growth tips curl over like a shepherd's crook. Speculation is that our February cold snap combined with last week's wet and warm conditions have led to a much greater incidence of the disease than usual. It's too preliminary to assess or speculate on the extent of the injury.
4) Strawberry Brown Rot, southern strawberries: A high incidence of a green and ripe fruit brown rot has shown up in some Oregon strawberry fields. Again, last week's warm, wet weather created a high-risk environment for fungal diseases. We're waiting on lab tests to determine the specific causal organism.
5) Weevils: southern strawberries. The first southern root weevil adults emerged around May 20. That means that to prevent them from laying eggs and creating a bigger problem next year, they need to be killed by June 20. Adults begin laying eggs about four weeks after emergence. Black Vine, Strawberry and Rough Strawberry are our major pest species.

Strawberry Field Day Schedule:
1) Tuesday, June 13~The Washington State University Strawberry Field Day will be from 3 to 5 pm at the WSU Puyallup, Farm 5. This will be an informal time for talking about research and looking at new strawberry cultivars and promising selections. Contact Dr. Pat Moore at 253-445-4525 (cell 253-970-8058) for information.
2) Wednesday, June 14~The Oregon State University Strawberry Open House will be from 1 to 4 pm at the **North Willamette Research and Extension Center** in Aurora. There will be some introductory presentations by the researchers and then the bulk of the time will be spent going through and discussing the variety breeding plots. Contact Dr. Bernadine Strik at 541-737-5434 for information.

Web link of the Week:
1) Michigan Small Fruit Crop Information: Click here to see the most recent (6/6/06) issue of the **MSU Fruit IPM Crop Alert**. Click on the regional reports for specific small fruit crop status. You can also subscribe on their home page (**click here**) to have these newsletters emailed to you weekly throughout the season.

Chemical Control Update
The recently issued a 24(c) label for Washington for the insecticide, MSR, allows for one application on new plantings before rows close, 365 days before harvest. For northern Washington, that means no later than the 4th of July. For growers in SW Washington, it means around June 20.

Crop Updates:
Oregon blackberries: Marionberries are well past peak bloom. Evergreens are about 5% bloom on average. Fruit quality is looking good to excellent on most varieties. As mentioned before the Marion overall crop yield will be down significantly due to cold damage. How much it'll be down will depend a lot on the weather from now through harvest.
British Columbia raspberries: Most raspberry fields up and down, not very uniform. Fruit is now setting nicely but warm, wet conditions during bloom last week have increased the risk of fruit mold being a major factor. Some spot mold is showing up on green fruit. Fungicide applications have been difficult. The return of good weather this week will allow a significant push of bloom and a chance to get fungicides back on line. Early fruit set quality is probably poor with many potentially crumbly berries from poor pollination. Malahats will probably start picking in 4-6 days.

Skagit County raspberries: Fields with poor vigor have been given a (short) reprieve with the rain last week and mild temperatures this week keeping the stress levels down.
Oregon/SW Washington raspberries: Looks like the most southern and weaker Meeker fields should start harvest in about 10 days. Mild weather has reduced stress symptoms and, right now, fruit quality looks to have good potential. Yields will be down on the older fields. Leafroller control sprays will go on in some fields this next week. No rust problems are evident.
British Columbia blueberries: All varieties are in or entering green berry now. Some green fruit rot showing in Duke and Bluecrop fields that look to have had inadequate or poorly timed fungicide applications. Implementing the scheduled spray has been a tough job due to the previous wet period. Fruit fill is progressing quite quickly and pollination appears adequate with clusters a lot more even in development than last year. Blighting similar to shock or scorch has turned up negative for both-- possibly pseudomonas infections. There have been some early reports of pollination problems in Bluecrop and some of the later blooming varieties, likely due to the poor weather at the tail end of bloom.
Whatcom County and Skagit County blueberries: Wet and windy weather last week and some fields look ugly-- blight symptoms are more visible. Many growers are treating for aphids right after removing the bees. Samples of prevalent blight came back positive for pseudomonas, Duke, Bluecrop, and Jersey look to be most affected.
Oregon blueberries: Overall crop is still looking very good but the same Pseudomonas symptoms are showing up in some fields. Duke also seems more affected as do some young rabbiteyes. Early green fruit drop has been seen on some Ozark Blue and Legacy, possibly due to frost damage during bloom.
British Columbia strawberries: First ripe fruit is popping up everywhere in weak and early fields, Tillamook and Puget Reliance leading the way. Many two-year-old Tillamook, Totem and Rainier fields have clear virus symptoms creeping in while Puget Reliance fields seem to have less virus.
Skagit County strawberries: Strawberry harvest for processed fruit should start around next Monday.
Oregon/SW Washington strawberries: First Totem picks for processing have started coming in. Fruit size is good but last week's weather has apparently encouraged a soft, dry brown rot to mar a significant percentage of fruit coming out of some fields. Labor shortages are becoming apparent and could definitely impact overall yields.

New pest Information

Insects/Mites

1) Raspberry Sawfly, southern caneberries: (Click here for recent larvae photo) We've got a very high population of sawfly larvae. They can be mistaken for leafroller larvae. Damage to new growth is evident in some upright blackberries and raspberries. Damage observed doesn't appear to be significant enough to warrant treatment.
2) Weevils, northern blueberries: In British Columbia, we're starting to see weevil notching on blueberry leaves. We don't expect peak black vine weevil adult emergence until around mid to late June, but they are just starting now.
3) Aphids, northern blueberries: Aphid numbers, winged and non winged, are increasing, as are the number of aphid predators being found. In fields that have tested positive for Scorch virus or are adjacent to such fields, growers should apply a post-bloom aphicide once the bees have been removed.
4) Aphids, strawberries: Watch for aphids in newly planted strawberries. They can vector virus diseases.

Diseases

1) Botrytis, blueberries: (Click here for recent photo) With the wet weather we've had this past week, some growers are now seeing Botrytis Fruit Rot on some of the green berries.
2) Botrytis, strawberries: Some botrytis infections are present on ripened fruit in southern strawberries.
3) Leaf Scorch, strawberries: We're seeing higher levels of leaf scorch in SW Washington strawberry fields than usual.

Cropwork:

All Caneberries: 1) Can start applying fungicides for fruit mold control around 10-15% bloom. 2) Scout for rust and treat as needed. 3) (southern growing areas) can put out pheromone traps for strawberry crown moth.
Raspberries: 1) Put out pheromone traps for leafroller monitoring. 2) Scout for leafroller larvae. 3) (northern growing areas) Scout for raspberry beetle and distinctive leaf feeding pattern. 4) Scout for mites. 5) Scout and treat for yellow rust as needed.
Evergreen Blackberries: 1) Can apply fungicide for prevention of blackberry rust infections. 2) Can apply sulfur for redberry mite control.
Blueberries: 1) Scout for virus symptoms. 2) Can apply fungicide for fruit mold control. 3) Scout for scale. 4) After petal fall, can treat for alternaria and/or anthracnose fruit rot. 5) Scout for weevil notching on leaves. 6) Plan for preventing bird-feeding damage. 7) Scout for mummyberry, botrytis and other green fruit problems.
Strawberries: Harvest ongoing in SW Washington and Oregon. 1) Scout for weevil leaf notching and adult weevils. 2) Can apply fungicide application to prevent fruit mold at 10% bloom. 3) Scout for virus symptoms (distorted leaves/new growth). 4) Scout for aphids. 5) Scout for two-spotted mites and cyclamen mites. 6) (southern growing areas) Put out pheromone traps for strawberry crown moth. 7) Scout for spittlebugs.

Ongoing Pest Information (Click on underlined blue name for information, photos and control options.)

Insects

1) **Obliquebanded Leafrollers**, northern blueberries. **2) Redberry Mites**, Evergreen blackberries. **3) Mites,** raspberries. **4) Raspberry beetle:** northern raspberries.

Diseases

1) Phragmidium Rust, Evergreen blackberries. **2) Alternaria Fruit Rot,** blueberries. **3) Anthracnose Ripe Rot**, blueberries. **4) Cane and Leaf Rust,** blackberries. **5) Yellow rust**, raspberries. 6) **Mummyberry,** blueberries.