

Small Fruit Update



June 14, 2006

[Event Calendar](#)

[Small Fruit Cold Storage Reports](#)

[Weather Forecast](#) by Rufus La Lone

Pest Alert: [Pseudomonas Tip Blight](#), **blueberries:** A blight symptom most likely being caused primarily by the bacteria, *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *Syringae* (not all testing has been completed) is impacting blueberry fields across our region. [Click here](#) for recent photos of typical symptoms.

Today--- 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.

USDA Announces Intentions to Purchase Frozen Red Raspberry Puree: [Click here](#) for the press release.

Web links of the Week:

[Click here](#) for website of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association. [Click here](#) for the Washington State Beekeepers Association. [Click here](#) for the Canadian Honey Council. All of these sites have a lot of useful information from swarm removal to classified adds for beekeepers and hives.

Crop Updates:

The continuing wet, mild weather pattern continues to favor the development of fungal diseases. Growers are strongly advised to keep on top of fungicide applications.

Oregon blackberries: Marionberries look to have a good quality crop. We've gotten good pollination in all the blackberries. Evergreens are around 20% bloom with rust levels still low but starting to increase. Hard to believe after last year's experience that the *Phragmidium* rust has yet to be a factor in this year's Evergreens.

British Columbia raspberries: Raspberries chugging along, but already some spot mold and crumbly fruit (some drupelets missing) are clearly visible. With an overabundant canopy (thanks to the cool and wet weather) one cannot assess quantity of fruit easily, but it is still looking uneven, depending on fields and variety. It's very important to protect from mold.

Whatcom County raspberries: Too wet and too warm. The start of the processed Willamettes is probably still about ten days away. Staying on top of fungicide applications right now is critical.

Oregon/SW Washington raspberries: First machine harvested Meekers for processing will start late this week. The mild weather has been kind to the weaker fields, minimizing stress on compromised root systems. Expected yields on some of the earlier ripening fields might be better than previously thought but fruit quality (mold, firmness) could be an issue. The fruit might also have difficulty releasing due to the cores being swollen by our mild, wet weather.

British Columbia blueberries: A number of factors are impacting the crop right now: 1) Some growers estimate 20-40% damage in fields due to blighting which is most likely caused primarily by *Pseudomonas* but probably has multiple causes. There is some indication of correlation of frost pockets and blights. 2) Sunday/Monday there were severe weather pockets throughout the Valley with hail, high winds, and driving rain. 3) Pollination in some of the later ripening varieties is poorer than expected with a lot of uneven berry clusters on Bluecrop and some fruit drop.

Whatcom County blueberries: Continued problems with the blight symptoms. Speculation on contributing factors include: 1) Excessive nitrogen going into the fall/winter which didn't let plants harden off properly. 2) The February freezes that created conditions for *Pseudomonas* infections. 3) The wet, mild spring. 4) Copper resistant strains of *Pseudomonas*.

Oregon blueberries: Some green fruit drop and blight symptoms but they aren't as severe as farther north. The crop is still looking to be in good condition with average to a little above average yields probable. Some u-pick Dukes will open by this weekend with the processed harvest still expected to start around June 26. Willamette Valley Earliblues will start four or five days before Duke.

British Columbia strawberries: Crop is looking pretty good at the moment with two major issues—virus symptoms and the high risk of fruit mold.

Oregon/SW Washington strawberries: Mild, humid conditions and not enough pickers are increasing the losses due to fruit mold. Growers who have been able to keep up with the pick and get the fruit processed promptly are getting some good yields and quality but the overall crop will most likely be down.

Chemical Control Update

Guthion and Phosmet, blueberries: [Click here](#) for the details on the recent EPA changes and phase out schedule for Guthion as well as changes to the Phosmet regulations. In small fruits, blueberries are most affected. All Guthion use will be phased out by 2010.

New pest Information

Insects/Mites

1) **Unidentified Scale Species, blueberries:** The tentative identification is the azalea bark scale. Previously reported on blueberries at sites in Washington, Columbia, and Marion counties in Oregon; it has also now been found in a field in Clark County in SW Washington and at the North Willamette Research and Extension Center in Aurora, Oregon. [Click here](#) for a 2-page PDF file of information and photos put together by Dr. Bernadine Strik (OSU). The scale is just now entering the crawler stage when it both can spread quickly and is most vulnerable to insecticide applications. [Click here](#) to send us an email on any sightings or information.

2) **Obliquebanded Leafrollers**, northern blueberries. OBLR larvae continue to be a problem in blueberries.

Diseases

1) **Phragmidium Rust, Evergreen blackberries:** The rust has become more visible in the last couple of weeks and there is still a risk of infections of the buds, flowers and green fruit impacting yields. Using Pristine as a bloom spray will give some protection of infections from both the rust and fruit mold.

2) **Mummyberry, blueberries:** Infected fruit is becoming apparent. As the green fruit sizes up, berries that have been infected color early (pale orange and purplish tinge) and soften. They then drop from the bush, turn white and harden.

3) **Raspberry Bushy Dwarf Virus, Marionberries:** Leaf symptoms are now visible in Marionberries. The leaves take on a bright yellow color with green veins. If suspected, tissue samples for testing can be sent to Dr. [Bob Martin](#) (USDA small fruit virologist) (541) 738-4041. Crumbly fruit and lower yields result from RBDV infections.

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

1) **Orange Tortrix Leafrollers, southern caneberries:** Larvae have been found in some caneberry fields. In fields with chronic OT harvest contaminant problems, it's time to treat with bee safe materials (if bees are still present). These include Spinosad (night applications only), Confirm (Tebufenozide) and BT formulations. These are 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) **Weevils: strawberries:** [Black Vine](#), [Strawberry](#) and [Rough Strawberry](#) are our major pest species.

4) [Weevils](#), blueberries.

5) [Aphids](#), blueberries.

6) [Aphids](#), strawberries.

7) [Raspberry beetle](#): northern raspberries.

Diseases

1) [Blueberry Shock virus](#) and [Scorch virus](#). 2) [Botrytis](#), blueberries. 3) [Botrytis](#), strawberries. 4) [Alternaria Fruit Rot](#), blueberries. 5) [Anthracnose Ripe Rot](#), blueberries. 6) [Cane and Leaf Rust](#), blackberries.

Cropwork:

All Caneberries: 1) Can apply fungicides for fruit mold control. 2) Scout for rust and treat as needed. 3) (southern growing areas) can put out pheromone traps for strawberry crown moth. 4) Put out pheromone traps for leafroller monitoring. 5) (southern growing areas) Scout for leafroller larvae.

Raspberries: 1) (northern growing areas) Scout for raspberry beetle and distinctive leaf feeding pattern. 2) Scout for mites. 3) Scout for aphids. 4) (southern growing areas) Can apply insecticide for harvest contaminants.

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

Blueberries: 1) Scout for tip blight symptoms and determine cause. 2) Can apply fungicide for fruit mold control. 3) Scout for scale. 4) 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) Scout for virus symptoms (distorted leaves/new growth). 3) Scout for aphids. 4) Scout for two-spotted mites and cyclamen mites. 5) (southern growing areas) Put out pheromone traps for strawberry crown moth. 7) Scout for spittlebugs.