



May 20, 2008

[Photos of the Week](#): 1) Blueberry leaf shoot infected by mummyberry 2) Stage of yellow rust presently being seen in southern raspberry fields.

[Small Fruit Cold Storage Report](#)

[Upcoming Meetings](#) (a calendar of small fruit related events)

[The Weather Cafe](#) by Rufus La Lone

Crop Development

Raspberries

- **British Columbia:** (5/20) The rains and warm weather of last week have improved growth in many fields. However, overall laterals in most fields will be shorter than normal this season. Still frustrating that a number of fields just don't seem to respond to ground or foliar feeding. Speculation is that it could be a combination of increased cane disease and April cold weather injury.
- **Lynden, Washington:** (5/15) Raspberries should take off like a ball of fire now since we have this heat following 1.25-1.5 inches of rain last Tuesday and Wednesday. Second application of fertilizer is almost done.
- **Oregon/SW Washington:** (5/20) Bees were brought in to most fields this week although, even after the heat wave, bloom just getting into the 5-10% range. Some root rot collapse is noticeable but in general fields are looking healthy. Harvest could start as late as the beginning of July.

Blackberries:

- **Oregon:** (5/19) This past week's heat wave accelerated bloom development in all fields. Some leaf burn but no apparent impact on the crop potential other than causing Silvan and Black Diamonds to go from under 5% bloom last Wednesday to over 50% by Monday. Marions and Kotata are under 5% bloom. Marionberry harvest is estimated to start around July 10 to 12.

Blueberries

- **British Columbia:** (5/20): Well into bloom on most varieties now and are starting second round of botrytis and anthracnose sprays this past weekend and this coming week. Elliots are almost at 10% bloom in some areas. Looks to be shaping up to be a very compressed pick of all varieties the way the bloom period is progressing.
- **Mt. Vernon, Washington:** (5/19) There are reports of a lot of shock virus symptoms in some fields with one field of Rubel field reported to be around 70%.
- **Lynden, Washington:** (5/15) The hot weather finally got blueberries moving. The first round of bloom sprays are just being completed.
- **Oregon:** (5/20) The heat brought on a lot of bloom, pretty much finishing most Duke fields which are now at early green fruit stage. Some pseudomonas blossom blight from the last freeze we had about 10 day ago but in general the crop potential is very good. After the heat, it looks even more like a condensed harvest season.

Strawberries

- **Northern Washington:** (5/15) Bloom has finally started.
- **Oregon/SW Washington:** (5/20) The heat again condensed a lot of bloom. The Totems are pretty much finishing up while the Tillamook fields are looking both stronger and later. The heat isn't going to do much for overall yields which were already looking to be below average. A condensed harvest season could contribute to more problems especially if run into a wet or hot weather pattern. Harvest start still estimated to be around June 12.

Industry News (Go to www.nwipm.info for more industry information links.)

- **Michigan State Fruit Crop Newsletter for 5-20-08:** [Click here](#). This edition includes:
 - A **fungicide chart for blueberries** showing the efficacy of each fungicide against each disease.
 - An article on using **gibberellins (commercial product names: ProGibb, ProVide)** in blueberries to either increase fruit set or decrease flower numbers depending on when they are applied.
- **New European Union proposals could drastically restrict the number of pesticides available to farmers:** [Click here](#) for the article from *BBC News*.
- **Smucker's acquires Knotts berry farm label:** [Click here](#) for the article.

Chemical Control Information

- **Miticide, caneberries, strawberries:** Both caneberries and strawberries are now listed on a full label for [Acramite 50WS](#) for mite control in the U.S.

New Pest Information

B.C. Blueberry Council IPM newsletter for 5/15: [Click here](#).

Insects

- **Weevils, strawberries:** In SW Washington and the Willamette Valley, our major pest species are pupating. With a few adults beginning to emerge. For more weevil information, click on these links: [rough strawberry root weevil](#), [black vine root weevils](#), [strawberry root weevils](#).
- **Aphids, northern blueberries:** Aphid numbers are increasing but no winged forms have been found yet.
- **Raspberry Beetle: northern raspberries.** Many northern growers are now treating for raspberry beetle with Diazinon applications before bringing in bees in a couple of weeks when bloom is at 10%.
- **Twospotted Mites**
 - **Strawberries:** Some southern fields were treated with miticides due to increasing mite levels.
 - **Northern Raspberries:** Some northern raspberry fields are seeing treatable mite levels even through the cool weather that preceded the heat wave.
- **Strawberry Crown Moth, southern strawberries and caneberries:** Pheromone traps were put out in many SW Washington strawberry fields this week in anticipation of adult emergence within the next couple of weeks.

Diseases

- **Pseudomonas (Bacterial Blight) Southern blueberries.** With the freezing night temperatures of a couple weeks ago, we've been seeing a big increase in blossom dieback due to pseudomonas especially in susceptible varieties like Berkeley.
- **Unidentified virus-like symptoms, blueberries: Free testing** If growers in any growing region observe virus-like symptoms such as blossoms and/or vegetative laterals collapsing or fruit dropping from the same bushes every year and aren't sure what's causing the symptom, contact:
 - In **Washington and Oregon**, [Bob Martin](#) (USDA small fruit virologist) (541) 738-4041.
 - In **British Columbia**, contact [Sonja Ring](#) (BC Blueberry Council's research coordinator) 604-613-2133.
- **Shock virus, blueberries:** Symptoms are increasing in northern fields and will continue to increase through next week. In the south, new infections are not being seen and those that defoliated earlier are now pushing out a new flush of growth.
- **Scorch Virus: northern blueberries:** Symptoms of Scorch virus are becoming apparent in some fields in British Columbia.
 - **BC Blueberry Council's virus testing program:** Up to 10 samples per field can be submitted for testing free of charge. All samples need to be submitted with a **Blueberry Scorch Virus / Blueberry Shock Virus Laboratory Submission Form**. Contact Sonja Ring BC Council's research coordinator for information and the appropriate forms. sonjaring@shaw.ca (604) 613 2133.
- **Phytophthora root rot, raspberries: Free testing** With the hot weather, symptoms of root rot (collapsed canes/plants) have been starting to show up in both southern and northern fields. While often assumed to be caused by *Phytophthora fragariae* var. *rubi*, there are many other potential causal organisms. To confirm that *P. fragariae* var. *rubi* is the cause of the dieback, growers in Washington State can have samples pulled and tested for free. Contact [Colleen Burrows](#), Whatcom County WSU Extension IPM coordinator (360) 392-1926.
- **Mummyberry, blueberries:** The blighted tips symptomatic of mummyberry are at very high levels in some southern fields with a history of the disease. It looks like the prolonged cool spring was prime weather for mummyberry infections.
- **Blackberry rust, Evergreen blackberries:** Many fields received fungicide treatments this past week.
- **Yellow rust, raspberries:** Many fields in the southern areas received fungicide applications for yellow rust this past week.

On-going Pest Information

Insects

- **Azalea Bark Scale**, southern blueberries.
- **Barypeithes root weevil**, southern blueberries, strawberries.
- **Orange Tortrix leafrollers**, southern caneberries.
- **Winter moth/ Bruce span worm**, blueberries.

Diseases

- **Alternaria Fruit Rot**, blueberries.
- **Anthracoise Ripe Rot**, blueberries.

- [Cane and Leaf Rust](#), blackberries.
- [Purple Blotch](#), blackberries.
- [Raspberry Bushy Dwarf virus](#), Marionberries.

Cropwork

All crops

- Weed control.

Blueberries

- Apply fertilizer.
- Can apply mummyberry control materials and/or take other mummyberry management actions.
- North--Scout for span worms/winter moth and treat as needed.
- Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to confirm.
- Scout for scale.
- Scout for aphids.
- Scout for weevil notching.
- Bring in bees around 10% bloom.
- During bloom, apply fungicide for fruit mold control.
- After petal fall treat for alternaria and/or anthracnose ripe rot as needed.

Blackberries

- Apply fertilizer.
- Scout for purple blotch lesions.
- Scout for rust and treat as needed.
- Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to confirm.
- Bring in bees around 10% bloom.
- Apply fungicide for fruit mold control starting at 10% bloom.
- Marionberries—treat for purple blotch in fields cropped every year as needed.

Raspberries

- Apply fertilizer as needed.
- Scout for rust and treat as needed.
- Can apply phosphite material for root rot control.
- Can burn back primocanes as needed.
- Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to confirm.
- Bring in bees around 10% bloom.
- Apply fungicide for fruit mold control starting at 10% bloom.

Strawberries

- As plants start growing, check weak areas for root weevil larvae, strawberry crown borers and/or root disease problems.
- Till row centers.
- Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to confirm.
- Watch for weevil notching and plan for weevil management if needed.
- Can apply phosphite material for root rot control.
- Apply fungicide for fruit mold control starting at 10% bloom.
- Plan to put out pheromone traps for strawberry crown moth in southern fields.