



May 27, 2008

[Photos of the Week](#): Typical Blueberry Gall Midge feeding symptom. This is just beginning to appear in area blueberry 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/ Lynden, Washington:** (5/26) Light bloom starting in some Meeker fields at the moment mainly on weaker canes. By the end of the week to the weekend substantially more bloom should show if temperatures remain warm.
- **Oregon/SW Washington:** (5/23) Meekers are around 15% bloom with bees in the fields. Cool, mild weather is great for plant development with minimum stress. Crop potential is looking pretty good right now.

Blackberries:

- **Oregon:** (5/27) Kotata and Obsidian are at full bloom and the plants are in good shape with little sign of winter damage. Still looking at the Marionberry yield being down as many of the fields show sporadic or weak growth.

Blueberries

- **Eastern Washington:** (5/27) Duke are through blooming. The berry sets looks very good and harvest is projected to start around June 22-24.
- **British Columbia:** (5/26) Bloom is about 5 days from wrapping up on early varieties. Bluecrop full on. Elliot 30-50%. Green fruit starting to size well but pollination a bit up in the air as there has been a considerable amount of poor bee flying days in the last 10-14 days. However, when the days have been good there's been high activity of placed bees and native bumblebees. It appears to be a second year in a row with good numbers of wild bumblebees.
- **Oregon:** (5/26) Duke are into green fruit. Main harvest could start as late as the 1st of July. Elliots and Auroras still have some bloom left. The heat wave left a lot of green fruit at about the same size. Should be a heavy amount coming on at once.

Strawberries

- **British Columbia:** (5/23) Strawberries look outstanding with the cooler weather, plenty of dry weather in bloom, so keep your fingers crossed.
- **Oregon/SW Washington:** (5/25) Bloom is finishing up quickly. The cool, mild temperatures are helping keep plant stress to a minimum. Fruit set on some fields still looks lighter than usual.

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

- **Lofty prices for fertilizer put farmers in a squeeze:** [Click here](#) for the *Wall Street Journal* article.
- **With migrant workers in short supply, farmers looking to labor saving mechanical solutions:** [Click here](#) for the *New York Times* article.
- **"By 2050, the world's premier wine-friendly zones could shift as much as 180 miles toward the poles"**...according to this article in the *Cincinnati Enquirer*. [Click here](#).
- **U.S. farms being outsourced to Mexico:** [Click here](#) for this *Associated Press* story.
- **USDA axes national survey charting pesticide use:** [Click here](#) for the article on *Yahoo! News*.
- **Guest-worker legislation quietly dropped from bill:** [Click here](#) for the *Fresno Bee* article.
- **Oregon's agriculture industry bigger than ever:** [Click here](#) for this *Portland Business Journal* article.

New Pest Information

- **Michigan State Weekly Blueberry IPM Newsletter:** [Click here](#) for the 5/20 report and/or sign up to receive them weekly. The present issue, as well as giving the development of the crop, has an excellent article on Anthracnose fruit rot.
- **B.C. Blueberry Council IPM newsletter for 5/22:** [Click here](#).

Insects

- **Weevils, strawberries:** Emergence of Black Vine and Rough Strawberry adults is now very evident. 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 the first winged forms have also been picked up.
- **Blueberry Gall Midge:** The first signs of gall midge feeding on vegetative growing tips were observed this week. How much economic damage gall midge does is debatable. The most obvious effect of the killed growing tips is the breaking of several buds further down the branch. In the case of new or small plants this can cause unwanted stunting. While in mature, large bushes, this branching out could actually be beneficial in some cases.
- **Twospotted Mites**
 - **Strawberries:** Mites continue to be a problem in both northern and southern strawberries with increasing numbers evident in fields.
- **Strawberry Crown Moth, southern strawberries and caneberries:** The first adult catch was noted this week in pheromone traps in SW Washington. This is suspected to be out ahead of regular consistent emergence.

Diseases

- **Cold damage, northern blueberries:** This is an informal description/attempt to evaluate the floral bud damage being seen in fields from one of our contributors: "no blooms in the laterals, damage done very early, likely in November, some blossoms aborted, others fine, damage done in early April, all blooms visible but all deformed and damaged, damage likely mid April. In another way, the later the damage the more blooms but dysfunctional ones."
- **Yellow rust, raspberries:** In northern fields, yellow rust is evident but not severe at this time.

On-going Pest Information

Insects

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

Diseases

- **Unidentified virus-like symptoms, blueberries: Free testing**
 - 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.
- **Alternaria Fruit Rot**, blueberries.
- **Anthraxnose Ripe Rot**, blueberries.
- **Cane and Leaf Rust**, blackberries.
- **Purple Blotch**, blackberries.
- **Raspberry Bushy Dwarf virus**, Marionberries.
- **Phytophthora root rot**, raspberries: **Free testing** 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.
- **Shock virus**, blueberries.
- **Scorch Virus**, northern blueberries.
- **Blackberry rust**, Evergreen blackberries.

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, leafrollers 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.
- 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 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.