

Small Fruit Update



May 6, 2008

[Photo of the Week](#): Tomato Ringspot Virus in Raspberries

[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:** Growth and color improved in many fields this past week as a result of warm weekend of April 26-27. However, there are still many struggling Meeker fields. Repeated frosts (at least 6 mornings in April) and cool days and nights seem to have taken a toll on the vigor of some fields.
- **Oregon/SW Washington:** Last year we were bringing in the bees with 10% bloom. This year...good green color and decent growth, but flowers are still a ways away. Looks like we're still at about 2 weeks behind normal and not getting enough heat to make it up.

Strawberries

- **British Columbia:** Plants are starting to show movement. Blooms are eventually going to move out. In early varieties some nice black interior of the buds showing they've been frost killed already.
- **Lynden, Washington:** (5/2) Fruit spurs showing, finally, may bloom within two weeks.
- **SW Washington:** (5/3) 10% bloom sprays are going on now on some fields. There are still quite a few newer fields that have a ways to go to 10%.

Blueberries

- **British Columbia:** (5/5) Frost damage noted in nearly all parts of the Fraser Valley (with the possible exception of Pitt Meadows) this past week. Damage noted is on buds that were unopened and leaf burn. Still very little bloom. Some Earliblue, Northland and Patriot in flower. Reka poised to start. Hopefully by the end of this week we get 5%+ on main crop. The way it's going we could start picking last week of July.
- **Lynden, Washington:** (5/5) Should be getting some bees in late this week with Reka starting to bloom. Some frost damage, but crop load still looking intact. Just worried over having such a late start.
- **Hillsboro area, Oregon:** (5/5) Had a nice warm weekend with temperatures in the low 70s. Duke at 40-60%, Legacy and Brigitta at full bloom and Bluecrop at 10-15%. Finally seeing some bees flying with reasonable pollination weather.

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

- **USDA Update on Bee Colony Collapse Disorder Research:** [Click here](#) for the report [Click here](#) for a USDA background article on the problem.
- **Cold dims county harvest prospects:** [Click here](#) for a *Bellingham Herald* article about the raspberry crop in northern Washington.

New Meeting Information

- **May 17 Oregon Blueberry Growers Association Annual meeting**, 1 PM, Ryan Brown's farm, 29405 SW Farmington Rd, Hillsboro, Hamburgers & hot dogs provided, you can bring a side dish. RSVP by calling or emailing David Dowling at 503-793-600 david@easterfarms.com
- Irrigation and Water Workshop Series, WSU Mount Vernon Research and Extension Center, 12-1 PM, Various days from now through August. [Click here](#) for the schedule

New Pest Information

- **BC Blueberry Council's IPM Newsletter for May 1:** [Click here.](#)
- **Oregon State Plant Clinic, May disease update:** The clinic has begun posting monthly photos of 'What to Watch For' in May. There are photos of Pseudomonas and Phytophthora in raspberries, mummyberry and Shock virus in blueberries and cold injury in strawberries. [Click here](#) to go to the Clinic's site.

Diseases

- **Disease Alert: [Pseudomonas \(Bacterial Blight\)](#), blueberries:** The risk of further Pseudomonas damage is greatly diminished when night temperatures go above 40 as is the case in our southern growing regions. No control measures should be needed or effective if night temperatures aren't falling into the mid-30's. However, if cold temperatures are in the forecast, continue with preventative measures.
- **Disease Alert: [Phragmidium rust](#), Evergreen blackberries:** It seems some of our diseases might be moving along at a faster than normal rate now that it's starting to warm up. Last week we first noticed the reddish blister – like spore stage. This week we've picked up the first of the very bright yellow/orange spore stage. The next couple of weeks will be critical to determining how big a problem this disease will be this season.
- **[Yellow rust](#), raspberries:** As with the Phragmidium rust in Evergreens, yellow rust in southern raspberries is showing the next spore stage, the bright yellow spots on the tops of inner leaves. The next couple of weeks (in the south) will also be critical to the potential of this disease to cause us major problems. Up north—it will be coming soon...

Insects

- **[Raspberry Beetle](#), raspberries:** Usually considered a pest only in northern growing areas, a field in Oregon was found to have a high population level of raspberry beetles this past week.
- **Twospotted Mites, [strawberries](#), [raspberries](#):** There are reports of unusually high early season spider mite populations in a couple of strawberry and raspberry fields.

On-going Pest Information

Insects

- **[Winter moth/ Bruce span worm](#), blueberries.**
- **[Strawberry Crown Moth](#), southern strawberries.**
- **Root Weevils, southern strawberries:** Larvae of [Black Vine](#), [Rough Strawberry](#), [Strawberry](#) root weevils are now being recovered from some strawberry fields.
- **[Clay colored weevil](#), northern raspberries.**
- **[Aphids](#), blueberries.**

Diseases

- **[Mummyberry](#), blueberries:** Protective fungicides and/or other measures to control this disease will be needed over the next several weeks in fields where it is present.
- **[Shock virus](#), southern blueberries.**
- **[Purple Blotch](#), blackberries.**
- **[Raspberry Bushy Dwarf virus](#), Marionberries.**
- **[Tomato Ringspot virus](#), southern raspberries.**
- **[Downey Mildew](#), boysenberries & Kotata blackberries (occasionally other blackberries).**

Cropwork

All crops

- Weed control.

Blueberries

- Apply fertilizer.
- Can apply mummyberry control materials and/or take other mummyberry management actions.
- Can apply bacterial blight management materials (e.g. copper, **[Serenade](#)**).
- Scout for span worms/winter moth and treat as needed.
- Apply pre-bloom aphid control as needed.
- Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to confirm.
- Make preparations to bring in bees around 10% bloom.
- Apply fungicide for fruit mold control starting at 10% bloom.

Blackberries

- Apply fertilizer.
- Scout for purple blotch lesions.
- Scout for rust.
- Can apply phosphite material for Downey mildew prevention.
- Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to confirm.

Raspberries

- Apply fertilizer as needed.
- Scout for rust.
- 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.

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.
- Can apply phosphite material for root rot control.