



May 5, 2009

You Tube links of the week: Willamette raspberry cultivar, a Korvan harvester, it must be...Serbia! [Click here.](#) To see them machine harvesting the Heritage cultivar, [click here.](#) To see their traceability system, [click here.](#)

Photos of the week: Rusts now visible in Oregon caneberries: Blackberry (Phragmidium) Rust in Evergreen blackberry and Yellow Rust in raspberry.

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

[Small Fruit Cold Storage Report](#)

[Upcoming Meetings](#)

In the southern growing areas we've moved into a mild and wet weather pattern that is high-risk for fungal disease infections. Long leaf wetness periods and temperatures in the 60's are perfect for rusts, botrytis and other disease agents.

- **Disease Alert: Blackberry Rust** (Phragmidium Rust) **evergreen blackberries:** This weather is perfect timing for infections to take place—and there's probably not much you can do about it until the fields dry out some.
 - As soon as possible, it's recommended that Rally (Myclobutanil) goes on.
 - Oregon has an SLN label for a 5 oz per acre rate. Washington does not. Maximum rate allowed in Washington is 2.5 oz per acre.
 - Abound (Azoxystrobin) has also shown good efficacy.
 - New infections won't show symptoms for a couple of weeks so that's the time to really be scouting.
- **Disease Alert: Yellow Rust, raspberries:** Yellow Rust in southern raspberries is also bound to take a big jump in infection rates due to this weather. Growers should be monitoring fields closely.
- **Disease Alert: Mummyberry, blueberries:** Secondary Mummyberry infection sites, wilted vegetative tips, are now being found in some southern blueberry fields. It's from these sites that the spores move to infect blossoms resulting in the characteristic deformed berries. A fungicide in place on the blossom can prevent this from taking place. For a chart from Michigan State rating various fungicides' effectiveness on blueberry diseases, [click here.](#)

Update on the proposal to establish a U.S. National Processed Raspberry Council

Industry comments sought:

- In response to the volatility of the processed red raspberry market in recent years and the trending of imported fruit to gain an increasing share of the domestic market, the Washington Red Raspberry Commission has been working with the USDA to establish a means of assessing all processed raspberries sold in the U.S.
- The funds from this assessment would be used to increase demand for processed red raspberries in the U.S. through a better funded, more coordinated marketing effort.
- For a detailed update on this process, including answers to frequently asked questions (FAQ's), plus sample comment letters for growers and processors, [click here.](#)
- For the proposed order, [click here](#) (PDF file, 25 pages).
- For the referendum procedures, [click here](#) (PDF file, 5 pages).
- Pending a positive review of comments, the USDA will schedule a grower referendum to take place by this fall.
- For more information, contact the Commission's office at 360-354-8767 or to send an email, [click here.](#)

Maximum Residue Levels (MRL's) information

MRL's have become a very significant issue in the global berry market. An MRL is the maximum pesticide residue level allowed by that particular country/market.

- **Insecticide MRL Caution: Brigade WSB** has had blueberries added to the U.S. label. However, no MRL has been established for Brigade in Japan. **Brigade (bifenthrin) cannot be used on any blueberries going to Japan.**
- **USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service MRL Information:** [Click here.](#)

- **MRL Database:** [Click here](#) to check on the MRL for any pesticide in any crop in any market.

Newsletters/Updates

- **New Jersey Blueberry Bulletin for 4-27-09:** [Click here](#).
- **Michigan State's Fruit Crop Advisory for 5-5-09:** [Click here](#).
- **Michigan State Blueberry IPM Newsletter for 5-5-09:** [Click here](#).
- **UMass Berry Notes for 3-09:** [Click here](#). Interesting articles on: 1) An innovative trellising system and growing trailing blackberries in cold climates and 2) Soil management for blueberries.

Regional reports

These reports are from individuals within the region and are their particular observations. They are included to give an impression of the present 'state of the industry' and regional activities.

Whatcom County, Northern Washington (5/1/09)

- **Blueberries:** Blueberries are getting pre-bloom applications for Winter Moth. A few early blooms are showing up in the Rekas. We should start setting out bees next week. Time to watch for frost.
- **Raspberries:** Basal shoot burning is about done, some side shoot burning is now underway. Winter damage makes some fields look brown instead of green. 70 degrees today- wheee!
- **Strawberries:** Strawberries are getting a pre-bloom aphicide. Flower clusters are starting to push. Some fields have high mite populations already- check smaller plants closely.

Skagit county, Northern Washington (5/4/09)

- **Blueberries:** We're at about 10% bloom on Reka, and Duke opening up as well. Blue Crop is further along than one would think, relative to early varieties. Bees should coming in and getting set out soon.

Tri-cities, Central Washington (5/1/09)

- **Blueberries:** There has been some light frost damage in eastern Washington; however, it is too soon to tell if it is significant. The preliminary thinking is that the combination of frost injury and winter damage is not large enough to impact crop load. Dukes are blooming, but we need a week or two before we have a complete assessment.

Willamette Valley, Oregon (5/5/09)

- **Blueberries:** Dukes are past 50%. Bloom moved fast last week. Elliotts are starting bloom. We had a rough storm over the weekend and very heavy showers this morning. So far there have probably been enough decent pollination windows, but it's been sketchy for a few days. Starting to see some secondary Mummyberry hits. The crop potential is still looking pretty good.
- **Strawberries:** Some SW Washington Totems are around 20-25% bloom. Having trouble getting bloom sprays on due to rain and wet fields. Went from being all caught up to being behind overnight.

Industry news

- **Oregon may shelve pesticide reporting:** [Click here](#) (Capital Press 4/30/09)
- **Munger Farms works to create an improved blueberry picking crate:** [Click here](#) (5/4/09, freshplaza.com)
- **Wave of juice may depress berry price:** [Click here](#) (Capital Press 4/30/09)
- **Immigration agents to turn focus to employers:** [Click here](#) (New York Times, 4/30/09)
- **Canada will monitor, not bar Mexican farm workers:** [Click here](#) (CBC news, 4/27/09)
- **Fresh blackberry category enjoys growth rate of up to 40%:** [Click here](#) (The Packer, 5/5/09)
- **Fresh blueberry volume increasing in 2009:** [Click here](#) (The Packer, 5/5/09)
- **Argentina, Chile go along on fresh berries' successful ride:** [Click here](#) (The Packer, 5/5/09)

New Pest Information

Birds, blueberries: In Whatcom County, Farm Friends and Creative Scarecrows has produced a brochure guide to bird management for blueberry growers. [Click here](#) for a downloadable PDF version of the brochure.

Insects

Aphids/Scorch Virus: northern blueberries: Pre-bloom aphid control is strongly recommended in blueberry fields infected with or in close proximity to fields infected with [Scorch virus](#).

Diseases

See Rust alerts above

Ongoing Pest Information

Diseases

- **Disease Alert:** [Pseudomonas \(Bacterial Blight\)](#) blueberries.
- [Purple Blotch](#) blackberries.
- [Shock virus](#), southern blueberries.
- [Raspberry Bushy Dwarf virus](#), Marionberries.

- **Tomato Ringspot virus, southern raspberries:** The typical light green chevron pattern of this virus is beginning to be picked up on new growth.
- **Downey Mildew, Boysenberries & Kotata blackberries** (occasionally other blackberries).

Insects

- **Insect Alert: Winter Moth/ Bruce Spanworm** blueberries.
- **Clay Colored Weevil**, northern raspberries/blueberries/southern strawberries.
- **Blueberry Gall Midge**, blueberries.
- **Twospotted Spider Mites:** northern raspberries.
- **Yellow Mites**, northern raspberries.
- **Juniper Weevil (Barypeithes pellucidus)**, southern blueberries, southern strawberries. This is a very small weevil that's now emerging in SW Washington and Oregon.

Meeting Information

- **May 7— Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission meeting and Budget meeting~** 5pm Budget meeting; 5:30pm regular meeting. Langdon Farms, Aurora, OR. Call 541-758-4043 or email [Philip Gütt](mailto:Philip.Gütt) for more information.
- **May 12 – IPM Scouting Tools for Blueberry & Raspberry Production, Whatcom County (10AM).** WSU Whatcom County Extension will discuss and demonstrate scouting techniques and current pest issues related to bloom growth stage in blueberry and raspberry production. A pest scouting guide for each crop will be provided. It will be held at Boxx Berry Farm, 6211 Northwest Road, Ferndale, WA. Refreshments will be served. For more information, contact WSU Whatcom County Extension (360) 676-6736.
- **May 13— Oregon Strawberry Commission budget hearing and regular meeting~** 5:30pm and 6pm. West Salem Roth's, Salem, OR. Call 541-758-4043 or email [Philip Gütt](mailto:Philip.Gütt) for more information.

Cropwork

All crops

- Weed control.

Blueberries

- 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.
- Bring in bees around 10% bloom.
- Can apply fungicide for fruit mold control at 10% bloom.

Blackberries

- Scout for Purple Blotch lesions.
- Burn back primocanes as needed.
- Scout for Phragmidium Rust in Evergreens.
- Can apply phosphite material for Downey Mildew prevention.
- Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to confirm.

Raspberries

- (northern areas) Scout for Clay-Colored Weevil.
- 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.
- Plan for a fungicide for fruit mold control at 10% bloom.
- Can apply slug bait.