

HORTSCIENCE VOL. 60(7) JULY 2025

genetic and phenomic efforts to understand more fully and breed for those stresses.

Raspberry Breeding in the PNW

Raspberries are increasingly popular with consumers because they contain nutraceutical compounds with anticarcinogenic and anti-inflammatory effects (Jean-Gilles et al. 2012; Mace et al. 2014; Montrose et al. 2011; Rodrigo et al. 2006; Shi et al. 2016, 2017). The steady increase in global production and acreage planted in recent decades reflects increasing consumer demand (Fig. 2). In 2021, the top five raspberry-producing countries were Russia, Mexico, Serbia, Poland, and the United States (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations n.d.) (Table 1). With increasing consumer demand, there is greater pressure to develop cultivars with higher fruit quality and yields, resistance to common pests and pathogens, and improved machine harvestability to offset challenges related to the cost and availability of labor.

Caneberry breeding in the PNW has been led by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA)–Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Horticultural Crops Production and Genetic Improvement Research Unit (HCPGIRU; formerly, the USDA-ARS Horticultural Crops Research Unit) (Corvallis, OR, USA), the Washington State University (WSU) Small Fruit Breeding program (Puyallup, WA, USA), and British Columbia Berry Cultivar Development Inc. (BCBCDI) (Abbotsford, BC, Canada). Historically, Agriculture and Agri-Foods Canada (AAFC) partnered with Pacific Agri-Food Research Centre (PARC) for raspberry breeding, but now collaborates with the BCBCDI. The USDA-ARS program in Oregon was started in 1928 and is one of the oldest blackberry and raspberry breeding

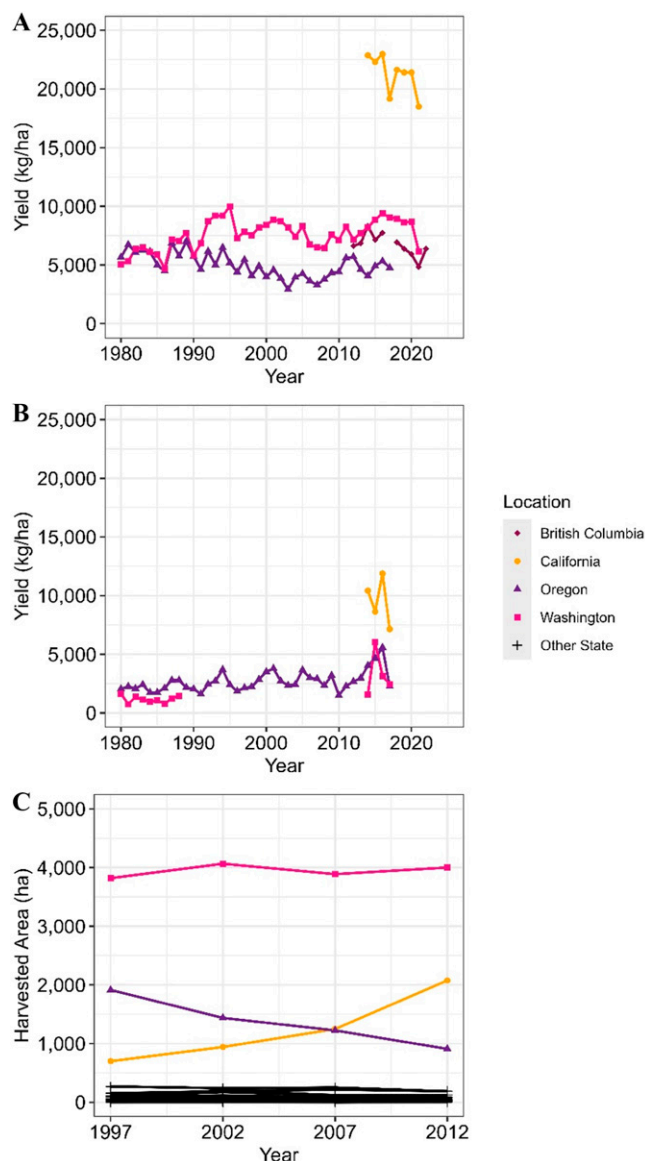


Fig. 1. (A) Red raspberry (*Rubus idaeus*) yields in the United States for reporting states and British Columbia, Canada. (B) Black raspberry (*Rubus occidentalis*) yields in the United States for reporting states. (C) Total harvested raspberry acreage in the United States for reporting states. Based on data from the US Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service (2023), Statistics Canada (2023), and the US Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service (2024).

Received for publication 12 Mar 2025. Accepted for publication 30 Apr 2025.

Published online 27 Jun 2025.

This work was funded in part by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (Hatch project no. 7003737), the Northwest Center for Small Fruits Research Center (project no. 2072-22000-046-006-G), and the USDA–Agricultural Research Service (project nos. 2072-21000-060-00D and 2072-22000-046-00D).

Much of the research in caneberries in the Pacific Northwest occurs on the ancestral homelands of indigenous peoples who were forcibly removed through the enactment of various treaties. US land grant universities and colleges that conduct and support this research exist today because of the Morrill Act of 1862, which authorized the sales of expropriated tribal lands to fund the establishment of these institutions. Mention of tradenames or commercial products in this article is solely for the purpose of providing scientific information and does not reflect recommendation or endorsement by the US Department of Agriculture.

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programs in the United States (Finn and Clark 2012). The WSU program was started soon after in 1929, followed by the AAFC-PARC program in British Columbia, Canada, in the 1950s (Jennings 2018; Moore and Hoashi-Erhardt 2016). Since their inception, these programs have worked collaboratively to meet the needs of PNW growers. In the private sector, Northwest Plant Co./Pacific Berries, LLC (Ferndale, WA, USA), and The New Zealand Institute for Plant and Food Research Ltd. (Mt. Albert, Auckland, NZ) have cooperatively developed and released raspberry cultivars, as has Driscoll's (Watsonville, CA, USA).

Today, the Corvallis USDA-ARS program (Corvallis, OR, USA) prioritizes blackberry breeding but continues to work on red and black raspberries. The WSU and BCBCDI programs primarily develop elite red raspberry cultivars.

The caneberry focus for each program matches regional acreage, with blackberry and black raspberry predominantly grown in Oregon, and red raspberry prevalent in Washington, USA and British Columbia, Canada (Statistics Canada 2023; US Department of Agriculture–Economic Research Service 2023).

Rubus genetic resources are maintained at the USDA-ARS National Clonal Germplasm Repository (NCGR; Corvallis, OR, USA) and were recently described by Bushakra et al. (2020). The NCGR currently maintains more than 2000 *Rubus* accessions from 56 countries. The mission of the NCGR is to acquire and maintain genetic resources, evaluate and characterize them phenotypically and genotypically, and distribute them for research worldwide. Information about these resources is publicly available through the Germplasm Resources Information Network database. The NCGR is

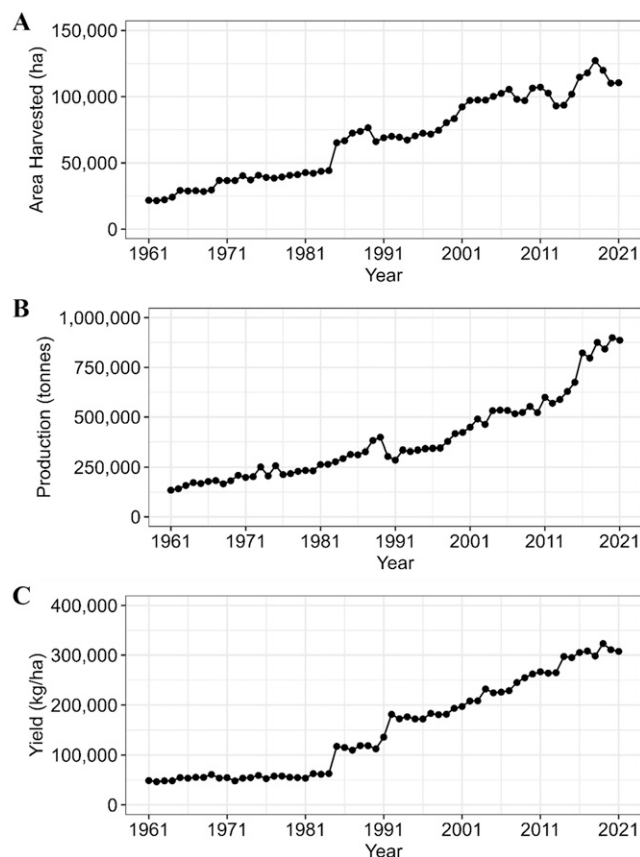


Fig. 2. (A) Global red and black raspberry (*Rubus idaeus* and *Rubus occidentalis*) area harvested from 1961 to 2021. (B) Global raspberry production from 1961 to 2021. (C) Global raspberry yields from 1961 to 2021. Based on data from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (n.d.).

vital to caneberry breeders who work closely with the *Rubus* curator and NCGR team on all aspects of acquisition, evaluation, research, and breeding. All NCGR accessions have a unique plant introduction (PI) number that is used to track their identities from distribution to downstream use in published research and breeding.

These programs have produced important public cultivars regionally and globally. Red raspberry ‘Meeker’ (PI 553384) was released in 1967 from the WSU program and accounts for a small but significant amount of established acreage of red raspberry for the processed market (Moore and Daubeney 1993). Red raspberry ‘Tulameen’ (PI 618441) out of the AAFC-PARC program set the current

standard for fresh-market red raspberry fruit quality in the early 1990s (Daubeney and Anderson 1991; Daubeney and Kempler 2003). Some of the PNW red raspberry cultivars have become important globally and are widely grown, such as ‘Willamette’ (PI 553362) in Serbia (Leposavić et al. 2013). Red raspberry florican cultivars for processing continue to dominate the PNW industry, where growers use a combination of public and private cultivars such as ‘Cascade Harvest’ and ‘Cascade Premier’ from WSU, ‘Chemainus’ from the BCBCDI, ‘Wakefield’ and ‘Wakehaven’ from Northwest Plant Co., ‘Kulshan’ from Driscoll’s, and other proprietary cultivars (nursery sales data from Northwest Berry Foundation, unpublished information; Moore et al. 2015). Many growers in Oregon, USA, continue to plant historical cultivars such as red raspberry ‘Meeker’ and black raspberry ‘Munger’, which is an example of the challenges breeders face in developing and promoting the adoption of new cultivars with high yield, machine-harvested fruit quality, long-term plant health, and resistance to abiotic and biotic stresses.

Genetic Diversity of Caneberries

Caneberry breeding for commercial production spans the past 200 years (Hall 1990). *Rubus* is an incredibly diverse genus, with 1471 accepted species to date (Plants of the World Online 2023). Of these species, only a

few are cultivated for commercial production. Most red raspberry cultivars are diploids ($2n = 2x = 14$) with ancestry that is derived from *R. idaeus* and its close relative *Rubus strigosus*, with occasional hybridization to other diploid *Rubus* subgenus *Idaeobatus* species (Hummer and Hall 2013). Black raspberry cultivars are also mostly diploid ($2n = 2x = 14$) and are predominantly derived from *R. occidentalis*, with occasional use of species hybrids to improve thornlessness, disease resistance, and fruit size.

The taxonomic classification of *Rubus* species is challenging because of apomixis and other nuclear events. Random chromosome doubling, parthenogenesis, meiotic disturbances, or unreduced gametes contribute to ploidy variation (including within species) and species hybridization, making species identification and organization difficult (Hall 1990; Thompson 1997). Most domesticated forms of *Rubus* are monoecious, although there are dioecious species, including several wild progenitors of domesticated forms (Crane and Lawrence 1931). Dioecy is strongly selected against by breeders, resulting in cultivars that are hermaphroditic and readily self-fertilize, which aids drupelet development and fruit set. Numerous cultivars and species are capable of self-fertilization, but some demonstrate inbreeding depression in early generations of progeny, which is a common observation in heterozygous outcrossing species (Daubeney 1971; Fejer and Spangelo 1974). Because of their heterozygous genomes, caneberries are clonally propagated to ensure true-to-type expression of selected plant phenotypes for agricultural production.

The tremendous diversity observed in *Rubus* is both useful and challenging to plant breeders working to improve existing caneberry cultivars and introduce novel traits. Wild accessions and heirloom cultivars can be excellent sources of pest and disease resistance or tolerance. However, eliminating the undesirable characteristics found in these germplasm, including dense prickles, non-erect growth habit, and soft or crumbly fruit, requires years of effort, underscoring the need for genomic breeding tools. Only a handful of cultivars are commonly found in the pedigrees of existing red raspberries. Graham and Jennings (2009) described ‘Lloyd George’ (PI 643942), ‘Pynes Royal’, ‘Preussen’ (PI 553525), ‘Cuthbert’ (PI 553363), and ‘Newburgh’ (PI 553369) as being the five parent cultivars that are commonly found in the pedigree of modern cultivars. Hummer and Hall (2013) found that eight cultivars listed in Hedrick’s *Small Fruits of New York* (Hedrick 1925) were present in more than 75% of modern cultivars. These eight cultivars were ‘Lloyd George’, ‘Latham’ (PI 553564), ‘Cuthbert’, ‘Newman’ (PI 553448), ‘Viking’ (PI 553368), ‘Ranere’ (PI 553366), ‘June’ (PI 553561), and ‘Herbert’. Although there are some cultivars consistently reported between studies as prominent parents, the differences in the studies are likely the result of a focus on adaptation for specific geographic regions, which appears to be further supported by the

Table 1. Top 10 countries with the highest production, rounded to nearest whole ton of raspberry in 2021.

| Country | Production (t) |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Russian Federation | 197,700 |
| Mexico | 165,677 |
| Serbia | 110,589 |
| Poland | 103,900 |
| United States | 81,150 |
| Spain | 48,830 |
| Ukraine | 36,290 |
| Portugal | 27,950 |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | 16,833 |
| Chile | 15,934 |

Based on data from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (n.d.).

assessment conducted by Dale et al. (1993) on the genetic contributions in cultivars by founding clones. Despite their narrow list of founders, phenotypic diversity within PNW red raspberry breeding populations remains high and is supported by continuous introduction of alleles from global germplasm.

Black raspberry development for commercialization has been hampered by numerous undesirable characteristics present in currently available material, such as susceptibility to viral and fungal diseases, small fruit size, and spiny canes (Hummer and Hall 2013; Jennings 1988). Improving such traits has proved difficult because many of the modern black raspberry cultivars have been found to be almost indistinguishable morphologically and genetically (Dossett et al. 2012; Ourecky 1975; Weber 2003). Commercial black raspberry production is concentrated primarily in Oregon in the United States and in South Korea, which has contributed to the slow turnover of cultivars (Graham and Jennings 2009; Kempler and Hall 2013). Black raspberries ‘Munger’ (PI 553740) and ‘Jewel’ (PI 553742) are the main cultivars grown, both of which were released several decades ago (Ourecky and Slate 1973; Weber 2013). In the PNW, production is focused mainly on machine-harvested berries for processing into anthocyanin-rich purées and food products, and breeding efforts are focused correspondingly on improving plant durability and disease resistance or tolerance over fresh-market eating quality.

Historically, the diversity of *Rubus* species has contributed to numerous traits that have become important for the industry, such as the absence of thorns or spines, plant architecture (erect, semierect, trailing), chilling requirement, primocane fruiting habit, fruit size, fruit firmness, and shelf life. Hall and Kempler (2011) described numerous examples of raspberry breeding programs worldwide using noncommercially cultivated species such as *Rubus arcticus*, *R. cockburnianus*, *R. crataegifolius*, *R. odoratus*, *R. spectabilis*, *R. pileatus*, *R. niveus*, *R. innominatus* var.

kuntzeanus, *R. biflorus*, *R. coreanus*, *R. parviflorus*, *R. parvifolius*, *R. idaeus*, *R. strigosus*, *R. glaucus*, *R. trivalis*, and *R. lasiostylus* for various fruiting qualities, abiotic and biotic stress resistance, and agronomic characteristics. A still wider set of species contribute to the crop hybrid complex that comprises the modern pool of blackberry cultivars. These species have been used to integrate desirable traits into other caneberry types, such as the hybrid cultivars Logan and Boysen, which are derived from combining trailing blackberry species with *R. idaeus* and *R. strigosus*, and supported important niches in the processed-fruit market (Hall et al. 2005). These species as well as underutilized species contained in US gene banks can be used to diversify the current germplasm in PNW and global breeding programs.

Several abiotic and biotic stressors are important in raspberry production, and developing resistant or tolerant cultivars is a significant goal of *Rubus* breeding programs today. Root rot and RBDV resistance are listed consistently as primary objectives for European and North American caneberry breeders (Finn et al. 2008; Weber 2013). In addition, resistance to potato leaf hopper (*Empoasca fabae*) and aphids (*Amphorophora idaei* and *Amphorophora agathonica*), which transmit the mosaic virus complex, are biotic resistance traits of interest. Although “resistance” appears frequently as a breeding objective in publications, it should be noted that “tolerance” can also be beneficial for plant longevity and performance. Pagán and García-Arenal (2018) describe resistance as “the host’s ability to limit pathogen multiplication” and tolerance as “the host’s ability to reduce the effect of infection on its fitness regardless of the level of pathogen multiplication.” The goals of individual plant breeders inform their decisions to pursue incorporating and selecting genetics for resistance or tolerance. Given the availability of germplasm-harboring alleles for resistance and tolerance, both should be incorporated to support a more stable plant pest response and delay the emergence of resistance-breaking pest populations. This may not be possible in the

case of pests or pathogens for which breeders have not identified genetic resistance in the germplasm, such as spotted-wing *Drosophila* (SWD; *Drosophila suzukii*) or *V. dahliae*. As the evolutionary arms race between pathogens and plant hosts continues, it is of little surprise that biotic stress resistance or tolerance remains a central focus of PNW caneberry breeding programs.

Plant Diseases of Caneberries in the PNW

Raspberry producers in the PNW face a variety of biotic stress challenges from pests and pathogens that can severely reduce yield, plant longevity, and marketable fruit quality. Many of these stressors have been an ongoing concern for decades. Chief among them are the plant-parasitic root lesion nematode (*P. penetrans*); the RBDV; the diseases Verticillium wilt (*V. dahliae*), Phytophthora root rot (*Phytophthora rubi*), and gray mold (*Botrytis cinerea*); and the insects SWD (*D. suzukii*), the American large raspberry aphid (*A. agathonica*), and the rose stem girdler (*Agilus cuprescens*) (Gigot et al. 2013; Martin 1998; Weiland et al. 2018). This review focuses on these diseases and pests. Other known and emerging diseases and pests have been discussed in detail by Crandall (1995), Finn and Hancock (2008), Hall et al. (2009), and Dolan et al. (2018).

Root lesion nematode (*P. penetrans*). Root lesion nematodes (*Pratylenchus* spp.) are globally widespread plant parasites that affect many crops. In a 2012 survey (Jones et al. 2013), these nematodes were voted as the third most economically important group of nematodes. They are polyphagous, migratory endoparasites found near and in roots of plants (Fig. 3A and B). As their name suggests, feeding on roots creates lesions and necrotic areas, resulting in reduced root growth and even plant death. Severe feeding affects aboveground biomass, reducing growth and crop yield (Fig. 3C and D). Their migratory

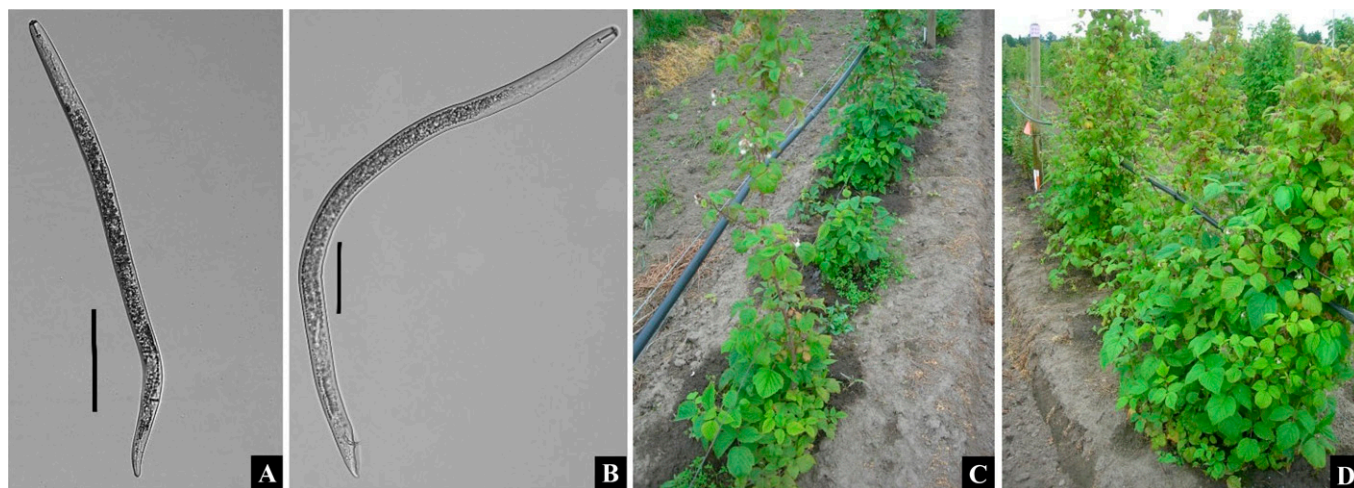


Fig. 3. (A) *Pratylenchus penetrans* female at a 100-μm scale. (B) *Pratylenchus penetrans* male at a 50-μm scale. (C) ‘Willamette’ red raspberry plants in unfumigated, *P. penetrans*-infested soil. (D) ‘Willamette’ red raspberry plants in soil fumigated for *P. penetrans*. Photos courtesy of Lester Núñez-Rodríguez, Oregon State University, and Inga Zasada, US Department of Agriculture–Agricultural Research Service.

nature and lack of obvious feeding patterns make them a challenging pathogen to investigate (Castillo and Volvas 2007; Jones and Fosu-Nyarko 2014).

Pratylenchus penetrans parasitizes more than 400 plant species, including red raspberry (Castillo and Volvas 2007; Rudolph and DeVetter 2015; Zasada et al. 2015). This nematode is of special importance for red raspberry in the PNW because of the limited environmental range suitable for red raspberry production (Rudolph and DeVetter 2015) and because raspberry-grower profit margins are narrow (Walters et al. 2017), making economical and sustainable control methods critical for growers. This pest also affects red raspberry production significantly in Scotland and other parts of Europe (Hall et al. 2009).

Historically, fenamiphos and methyl bromide were important nematicides used in the United States to control this pest. As environmental standards and policies have tightened, approved fumigants have become fewer and more difficult to use, reducing grower access to effective chemical treatments for nematodes (US Environmental Protection Agency 2008; Zasada et al. 2010). The raspberry industry in the PNW relies heavily on soil fumigation and primarily uses 1,3-dichloropropene for preplant fumigation to reduce nematode densities, primarily focused on *P. penetrans* (Zasada et al. 2010). Investigations into nonchemical strategies to manage *P. penetrans* have included brassicaceous seed meal, compost, mulch, root removal, solarization, cover crops, and crop rotation (DeVetter et al. 2018; Forge and Kempler 2009; Forge et al. 2012, 2014, 2016; Gigot et al. 2013; Pinkerton et al. 2000, 2009; Rudolph et al. 2017, 2018, 2019b; Trudgill and Brown 1992; Vrain et al. 1996; Walters et al. 2017; Zasada et al. 2009). Most of these strategies were not found to be comparably effective compared with soil fumigation, or were uneconomical for the grower, leaving preplant soil fumigation as the primary industry method for nematode management. Available fumigant treatments can reduce nematode densities, but the nematode is never eliminated from a field.

Raspberry bushy dwarf virus. RBDV is a pollen-borne viral disease that is characterized by poor drupelet set and crumbly fruit in some infected plants, and is accentuated by coinfections with *Raspberry leaf mottle virus* (RLMV) and *Raspberry latent virus* (RpLV) (Martin et al. 2013; Quito-Avila et al. 2014). RBDV resistance is a major objective in raspberry breeding programs. Although commercial cultivars are often symptomless when infected only with RBDV, the namesake dwarf phenotype arises when coinfections with *Black raspberry necrosis virus* (BRNV) occur (Jones 1979). Fruit from infected plants is susceptible to crumbling resulting from weak drupelet set or drupelet abortion (Murant et al. 1974). As a result, fruit may be rejected from the high-value individual quick-frozen market by processors, forcing growers to sell their fruit into lower grade juice, jam, or crumbled fruit markets (Washington Red Raspberry Commission, unpublished information). Losses

from poor fruit set caused by RBDV are estimated to be as high as \$2470/ha per year (Moore and Martin 2008).

RBDV was originally classified among the tripartite ilarviruses of the family Bromoviridae before being classified into a new genus *Idaeovirus* within Bromoviridae and was most recently placed into the family Mayo-viridae because of its genomic properties (Martin and Keller 2021; Ziegler et al. 1992, 1993). Isometric virions are ~33 nm in diameter and are composed of a single-stranded RNA bipartite genome with RNA-1, RNA-2, and RNA-3 (Barnett and Murant 1970; Mayo et al. 1991; Natsuaki et al. 1991; Ziegler et al. 1992). RNA-1 is 5449 nucleotides and RNA-2 is 2231 nucleotides; both are genomic RNA. RNA-3 is 946 nucleotides and has been classified as a subgenomic monocistronic coat protein messenger RNA derived from RNA-2. To date, RBDV remains the only officially accepted species in the *Idaeovirus* genus (International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses 2011). While predominantly a concern in *Rubus*, plants in the families Amaranthaceae, Chenopodiaceae, Cucurbitaceae, Leguminosae, and Solanaceae were also hosts after manual sap inoculation, but the virus did not readily spread from *Rubus* to these plants (Barnett and Murant 1970). RBDV was graft transmissible in other Rosaceae species such as quince (*Cydonia oblonga*), the hybrid *Pyronia veitchii*, and alpine strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*) (Credi et al. 1986; Jones et al. 1982). The first report of a natural infection of RBDV outside of raspberry was in grape (*Vitis vinifera*) in Slovenia and later also in Serbia, but has since been reported in sweet cherry (*Prunus avium*) in Turkey (Çağlayan et al. 2023; Jevremović and Paunović 2011; Mavrič et al. 2003; Mavrič Pleško et al. 2009).

A significant challenge in breeding for RBDV resistance is the nature of transmission. The pollen-borne virus is transmitted horizontally and vertically, resulting in infections of nearby plants and resulting seed (Barnett and Murant 1970; Cadman 1965; Murant et al. 1974). Because raspberries rely on insect pollinators, this appears to contribute to horizontal transmission, but there are no known insect vectors (Bulger et al. 1990; Murant et al. 1974). A needle nematode, *Longidorus juvenilis*, was reported to be positive for RBDV; the vector status of this nematode is still being investigated (Mavrič Pleško et al. 2009). Insecticides do not appear to reduce viral spread. Current management recommendations are to cultivate virus-free plants away from wild *Rubus* stands such as thimbleberry (*R. parviflorus*), which can harbor the virus. Growing virus-infected plants appeared to contribute to viral spread more than field proximity to wild stands (Špak and Kubelková 2000). However, eliminating RBDV from infected plants for continued use as parents and selections in breeding is difficult and time-consuming, even with the aid of tissue culture and thermotherapy (Chambers 1961; Lankes 1995; Mathew et al. 2021; Theiler-Hedtrich and Baumann 1989). For these reasons, RBDV is a major challenge not only in grower fields, but

also for nursery propagation and maintenance of virus-free breeding populations.

Phytophthora root rot (*P. rubi*). *Phytophthora rubi* [Wilcox and Duncan (Man in't Veld 2007)] is an economically significant soilborne pathogen of red raspberry commonly found in Washington, USA; British Columbia, Canada; and the northeastern United States (Gigot et al. 2013; Sapkota et al. 2022; Stewart et al. 2014; Weiland et al. 2018; Wilcox 1989). Black raspberries may also be infected but are generally much less susceptible (Fiola and Swartz 1994; Funt 2013; Wilcox and Cooke 2017). In addition to *P. rubi*, other *Phytophthora* species, such as *P. cactorum* and *P. megasperma*, may be important locally or regionally (Montgomerie and Kennedy 1980; Weiland et al. 2024; Wilcox 1989). *Phytophthora rubi* often co-occurs with other soilborne pathogens, including *P. penetrans*, *V. dahliae*, and various other *Fusarium*, *Cylindrocarpum*, *Rhizoctonia*, and *Pythium* species (Gigot et al. 2013; Weiland et al. 2018). Together, these pathogens are suspected of forming a soilborne disease complex that contributes to an overall decline in raspberry health, productivity, and field longevity (Weiland et al. 2018). However, *P. rubi* appears to be among the most damaging of the soilborne pathogens, and fields where *P. rubi* occurred were more than twice as likely to have severe root rot symptoms than fields where it did not occur.

Phytophthora species are not true fungi, but are more closely related to brown algae, and are properly classified as oomycetes (water molds). Oomycetes produce motile spores (zoospores) in response to high soil moisture. Zoospores are attracted to root exudates, and swim to fine roots where they initiate infection. Excessive irrigation, precipitation, or poor drainage can exacerbate infection and lead to significant plant loss (Duncan and Kennedy 1989; Wilcox and Cooke 2017). *Phytophthora rubi* zoospores are likely produced in late spring and summer, when field soils are warm, near 21 °C (Graham et al. 2021). Most *Phytophthora* species also produce thick-walled survival spores (either chlamydospores or oospores), which can survive for years in the soil. Combined, these characteristics can cause root rot to develop very rapidly when conditions are optimal, and make the pathogen extremely difficult to control in infested fields.

Once infection has occurred, *P. rubi* rots the fine roots, leaving larger structural roots behind. Lesions may develop on large roots and extend above the soil line into the lower cane, which may shrivel and turn reddish brown to purple or black (Stewart et al. 2014; Weiland et al. 2018; Wilcox and Cooke 2017). Scraping away the bark reveals water-soaked, reddish brown lesions with a distinct margin between recently killed and healthy tissues (Fig. 4A). Injured roots become increasingly unable to transport water and nutrients, leading to above-ground symptoms of stunting, wilting, leaf chlorosis or reddening, and cane death (Fig. 4A and B). These symptoms may occur on only one or two canes, or may affect the entire plant. Severe infections can cause up to 100% plant mortality



Fig. 4. (A) Scraped red raspberry (*Rubus idaeus*) root revealing the water-soaked, reddish lesion typical of *Phytophthora rubi* infection. (B) Whole-plant symptoms of *P. rubi* infection in red raspberry. Photos courtesy of Jerry Weiland, US Department of Agriculture–Agricultural Research Service.

in grower fields (Gigot et al. 2013; Weiland et al. 2018).

In the PNW, a combination of preplant soil fumigation, raised beds, resistant cultivars, and fungicides are used to manage *P. rubi*. Several fungicides are available and effective, including mefenoxam, phosphorous acid, and oxathiapiprolin (Heiberg 1995, 1999; Sapkota et al. 2023a, 2023b; Weiland et al. 2024; Wilcox et al. 1999). Amendments such as gypsum have been investigated and have shown promising results as part of a successful integrated pest management plan in conjunction with raised beds, resistant cultivars, solarization, and chemical controls (Maloney et al. 1993, 2005; McGregor and Franz 2002; Pinkerton et al. 2009). Biological controls have also been investigated in vitro but have not yet been examined under field conditions (Tous-saint et al. 1997; Valois et al. 1996).

Verticillium wilt (*V. dahliae*). Although *P. rubi* is the most destructive root pathogen of red raspberry, *V. dahliae* is the most damaging root and vascular pathogen of black raspberry (Mercier and Kong 2017). Unlike *P. rubi*, *V. dahliae* is a true fungus. It can survive in field soil for decades as hard, microscopic structures called microsclerotia. Microsclerotia germinate in response to root exudates and infect the fine roots of susceptible plant hosts. Once infection has occurred, the pathogen plugs and kills the water-conducting tissues (xylem), leading to wilting and cane death (Fig. 5). Unlike *Phytophthora* species, *V. dahliae* does not cause root decay, thus the fine root system may still be intact on recently killed plants. Infected

canes may be discolored purple to black and are very similar in appearance to canes killed by *P. rubi*. Therefore, plant samples should be sent to a diagnostic laboratory to confirm which pathogen is present, because many fungicides used to manage *P. rubi* are ineffective against *V. dahliae*.

Although red raspberry is not as susceptible to *V. dahliae* as black raspberry, severe infection is observed occasionally, especially when caneberry is grown in fields that were cropped previously with potato (*Solanum tuberosum*) or mint (*Mentha* spp.) (Weiland et al. 2018). Both mint and potato are highly susceptible to *V. dahliae*, and cropping with either of these plants can cause soil populations of the pathogen to build up to extremely damaging levels, resulting in major damage on caneberry grown in the field afterward.

Verticillium wilt is extremely difficult to manage once a field becomes infested. In woody crops, the disease is most commonly managed by either not planting susceptible crop species into fields where the pathogen is present or by preplant fumigation under tarp (Mercier and Kong 2017). This is a challenge in Oregon, where black raspberry is commonly planted in fields that previously contained other host crops such as potato. Unfortunately, there are no known fungicides that are effective against this disease. Solarization can reduce soil populations of the pathogen (Pinkerton et al. 2000), but the effect is inconsistent and does not penetrate deeply enough into the soil profile to provide effective, long-lasting disease control in northern locations. Host resistance

has not been well explored in black raspberry cultivars, although hybrids containing red raspberry parentage were more tolerant of Verticillium wilt than those containing only black raspberry parentage (Fiola and Swartz 1994). Similarly, only one or two of 17 black raspberry accessions had low symptom severity after inoculation in a greenhouse screening assay, although this effect was intermittent and severe disease was occasionally seen on all 17 genotypes (Weiland JE, unpublished data).

Gray mold (*B. cinerea*). *Botrytis cinerea* is a necrotrophic, haploid, ascomycete fungus that affects more than 1400 plant species worldwide (Alfonso et al. 2000; Fillinger 2016; Garfinkel et al. 2019; Ma and Michailides 2005; Staats et al. 2005; Williamson et al. 2007). *Botrytis cinerea* is the causal agent of cane blights, rots, and gray mold, a globally destructive disease that causes significant yield loss of red raspberry in the field and postharvest (Elad et al. 2004; Leroux 2007). The regional climate in the PNW contributes to high disease pressure from *Botrytis* spp. on red raspberry. *Botrytis* spp. can infect any foliar part of the plant, particularly leaves, buds, flowers, or fruit at a variety of developmental stages (Fig. 6) (Williamson et al. 2007). Infection of raspberry flowers and berries reduced yield and berry quality directly (Dashwood and Fox 1988; Kozhar and Peever 2018). The global annual cost to control *B. cinerea* exceeds \$1 billion/year and management relies heavily on the use of synthetic fungicides (Leroux 2007; Yin et al. 2012).

Botrytis cinerea is a high-risk fungal pathogen for the development of fungicide resistance as a result of its rapid life cycle, genetic diversity, and high fecundity (Atwell et al. 2015; Hahn 2014). Resistance to Fungicide Resistance Action Committee (FRAC) classes, including demethylation inhibitors, succinate dehydrogenase inhibitors, and quinone outside inhibitors has been reported worldwide (Hahn 2014; Zhang et al. 2016) and is a serious limitation for effective disease control. In the PNW, the primary management strategy for gray mold has been the use of fungicides with single-site modes of action (Hahn 2014). Growers often alternate fungicides with different FRAC codes, determined by their modes of action, to slow the development of resistance (Konstantinou et al. 2015; Polat et al. 2018; Zhang et al. 2016).

Further investigations have revealed there are genetic differences in *B. cinerea* populations with regard to fungicide sensitivities (Fournier et al. 2002; Konstantinou et al. 2015; Leroux et al. 2002; Martínez et al. 2005; Martínez et al. 2008). Differences in fungicide resistance profiles could be related to high levels of genetic diversity and restricted gene flow among the different cryptic groups of *B. cinerea* (Fournier et al. 2002, 2005; Giraud et al. 1997; Leroux et al. 2002; Martínez et al. 2003; Martínez et al. 2008; Walker et al. 2011). Fournier and Giraud (2008) demonstrated high *Botrytis* spp. genetic diversity within fields. Hu et al. (2018) showed a high diversity between isolates from the same location, and even on the same host plant, with multiple haplotypes exhibiting different fungicide-resistant profiles existing on the same plant

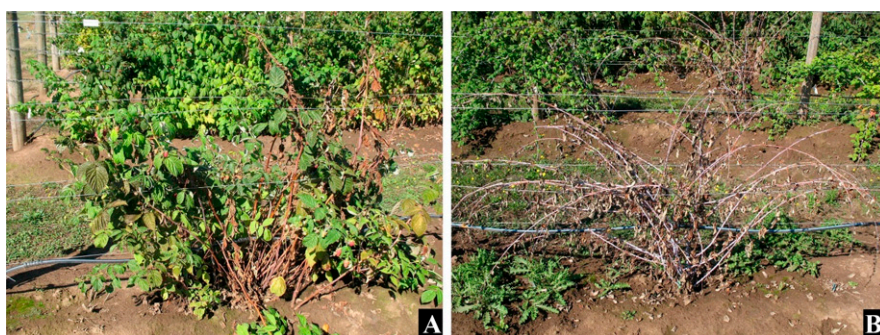


Fig. 5. (A) Red raspberry (*Rubus idaeus*) with symptoms of *Verticillium dahliae* infection, (B) Black raspberry (*Rubus occidentalis*) with symptoms of *V. dahliae* infection. Photos courtesy of Jerry Weiland, US Department of Agriculture–Agricultural Research Service.



Fig. 6. (A) Ripe red raspberry (*Rubus idaeus*) fruit during harvest, infected with *Botrytis cinerea* conidia. (B) *Botrytis cinerea* producing millions of spores on red raspberry cane lesion. Photos courtesy of Jeff DeLong, US Department of Agriculture–Agricultural Research Service.

tissue. The high genetic diversity of these pathogens and lack of clear genetic resistance in commercially elite germplasm make it a challenge to address by breeding efforts.

Insect Pests of Caneberries in the PNW

Spotted-wing Drosophila (*D. suzukii*). Originating in east Asia, SWD (syn. Asian vinegar fly; *D. suzukii*) has become one of the most important insect biotic stresses for small fruits and stone fruits such as blueberry, caneberries, strawberry, and cherry within the past two decades (Lee et al. 2011). It was introduced to the continental United States in California in 2008, and by 2015, was present in most states (Asplen et al. 2015). Compared with other fruit, red raspberry is a preferred host for SWD (Bellamy et al. 2013; Burrack et al. 2013).

This fly has a serrated ovipositor that allows it to penetrate the fruit skin and lay eggs within ripening fruit (Fig. 7A). The developing larvae feed on the fruit tissue, inflicting heavy damage. The infested fruit is subject to rejection by fruit packers, sellers, and importers because of the presence of SWD, infections from other pathogens resulting from SWD damage, and violations of maximum residue limits from pesticide applications (Goodhue et al. 2011). In California, crop damage from SWD can lead to temporary price increases for

growers, but overall represents significant revenue reductions (Goodhue et al. 2011).

Since its introduction, there has been heavy reliance on insecticides to manage SWD, but in recent years there has been emerging research demonstrating the use of biological control agents (e.g., parasitoid wasps, insect and avian predators, entomopathogenic nematodes), nonhazardous sugar substitutes (e.g., erythritol), and physical barriers and deterrents (e.g., exclusion netting, plastic mulch) for management (Carroll et al. 2023; Choi et al. 2017; Lee et al. 2019; McIntosh et al. 2023; Sampson et al. 2017; Stockton et al. 2020). Since 2022, releases of the imported parasitoid *Ganaspis kimorum* have been made throughout the United States, and another parasitoid originally from Asia, *Leptopilina japonica*, has established on its own throughout North America (Garipey et al. 2024). The impacts of these parasitoids on SWD populations are being monitored.

American large raspberry aphid (*A. agathonica*). The large raspberry aphid (syn. raspberry aphid, common raspberry aphid) is a significant concern for red raspberry production in North America and Europe. The species differ between the two locations. The American large raspberry aphid is *A. agathonica* (Fig. 7B), whereas the European large raspberry aphid is *A. idaei*.

Feeding on raspberry plants by the American large raspberry aphid can result in leaf curl, which on its own is not detrimental to the plant (Funt 2013). The detrimental effect is the aphid's role as a vector for many of the viruses that contribute to the raspberry mosaic virus complex and the raspberry crumbly fruit complex. The raspberry mosaic virus complex includes BRNV, RLMV, and *Rubus yellow net virus* (RYNV) (Martin et al. 2013). The raspberry crumbly fruit complex is comprised of RBDV, RLMV, RYNV, and RpLV (Martin et al. 2013). Of all these viruses, RBDV is the only one that is not transmitted by aphids (refer to earlier section). To add to this complexity, each of these viruses are transmitted in variable manners, with BRNV transmitted nonpersistently, RYNV and RLMV likely transmitted semipersistently, and RpLV transmitted persistently (Cadman 1954; Halgren et al. 2007; Jones et al. 2002; Quito-Avila et al. 2012).

Options for aphid management include biocontrols (e.g., parasitic wasps), cultural controls (e.g., removal of plant debris), chemical controls (e.g., imidacloprid), and plant genetic resistance. No genes have been identified that confer resistance to these viruses, and research has therefore focused on improving resistance to the insects that transmit virus.

Rose stem girdler (*A. cuprescens*). Since 2022, the rose stem girdler has been found from the southern Willamette Valley of Oregon, USA, to the Canadian border of western Washington, USA (O'Dea 2024). Introduced from Europe, it was first reported in the eastern United States as early as 1913.

The insect is a metallic-colored beetle that lays its eggs on the canes of various *Rubus* species and rose plants (Fig. 7C). The hatched larvae tunnel and feed inside the cane that girdles the canes. Girdling can cause galling in first-year canes, can increase cane snapping and breakage significantly, and can reduce fruit production in second-year canes. Heavy infestation for 2 to 3 years will kill plants. The larvae overwinter inside the canes and emerge as adults from late May to early June after accumulating ~900 h at more than 55 °F (O'Dea and Hill 2022).

Effective monitoring with traps for the rose stem girdler is still in need of development. Currently, growers are recommended to use insecticides for 3 weeks after pest emergence,



Fig. 7. (A) *Drosophila suzukii* on ripe red raspberry (*Rubus idaeus*) fruit. (B) Colony of *Amphorophora agathonica* in various life stages feeding on a black raspberry (*Rubus occidentalis*) seedling. (C) *Agrilus cuprescens* on a blackberry leaf. Photos courtesy of Savannah Phipps, Oregon State University; Victoria Skillman, US Department of Agriculture–Agricultural Research Service; and Justin O'Dea, Washington State University.

and to prune canes with damage. Pruned canes need to be removed or destroyed to kill the overwintering larvae. A parasitoid that attacks the larval stage, *Baryscapus rugglesi*, has been found regularly in the PNW (O'Dea et al. 2023). Because this parasitoid is already naturally occurring, a greater understanding of conservation practices to enhance its effectiveness is needed.

Current Understanding of Disease Resistance Genetics

For the diseases and pests discussed earlier, management has been ongoing for decades, primarily with chemical methods. Understanding the impacts that certain pesticides have on environmental and human health has improved in the 21st century, reducing the availability of previously approved chemicals. Although innovative alternates to chemical control show some promise, many are ineffective or not economically feasible. In many cases, genetic resistance is the most sustainable and economical form of management despite the occasional emergence of new resistance-breaking pests or pathogens. Sources of genetic resistance to several pests and pathogens have been identified in red raspberry, although our knowledge remains limited for many of these biotic stresses.

Genetics of root lesion nematode resistance. Bristow et al. (1980) evaluated the reaction of 18 red raspberry cultivars to *P. penetrans* and found that some cultivars showed heavy infestations by *P. penetrans*, but with no significant impact on biomass fresh weight compared with the controls. This suggested that the raspberries under investigation possessed varying degrees of tolerance to *P. penetrans*; however, the authors speculated that the method used may not have elicited a significant response from the plants. Vrain and Daubeney (1986) performed a similar experiment with 21 red raspberry genotypes, including 10 from the experiment by Bristow et al. (1980) and four related *Rubus* cultivars. Some cultivars demonstrated tolerance, and some demonstrated resistance based on the number of nematodes present and effects on plant growth and development, perhaps indicating that tolerance may be sustained for some time before a plant shows symptoms of *P. penetrans* parasitism. More recently, Zasada and Moore (2014) evaluated the reaction of a panel of *Rubus* species to *P. penetrans* in a greenhouse trial, including some of those from the Vrain and Daubeney (1986). The host status of *R. crataegifolius* 'Jokgal' was inconclusive in this trial, although Vrain and Daubeney (1986) previously found 'Jokgal' to support low densities of *P. penetrans*. Zasada and Moore (2014) observed that two black raspberry species, *R. niveus* and *Rubus leucodermis*, were poor hosts for *P. penetrans* across years and that they may be useful in breeding programs. However, raspberry 'Tulameen' (PI 618441) (Daubeney and Anderson 1991), which has *R. niveus* in its pedigree, did not support lower *P. penetrans* densities consistently compared with the industry standard 'Meeker'.

Current information on the host status of various clones and insights into the genetics of *P. penetrans* resistance suggest that *P. penetrans* resistance is quantitative and influenced by genetic background. Vrain et al. (1994) further investigated the mode of inheritance for *P. penetrans* resistance using a half-diallel analysis with crosses between two resistant and two susceptible genotypes. Resistance of red raspberry to *P. penetrans* was determined to be a quantitative trait, as no bimodal distributions indicative of a qualitative trait were observed for the recorded traits. A limitation of that study was its small sample size. Larger family size may reduce variability and allow determination of the resistance inheritance mode. To date, no published studies have evaluated and characterized *P. penetrans* resistance using genomic or quantitative genetic approaches.

Genetics of RBDV resistance. A single resistance gene to RBDV known as *Bu* was identified in the early 1980s (Jones et al. 1982; Murant et al. 1982). This is a dominant gene that appears to confer complete immunity to Scottish or common RBDV isolates (RBDV-S). Resistant cultivars possessing *Bu* are heterozygous. Cultivars homozygous for *Bu* were not identified, suggesting that the homozygous state may be deleterious to plant health or is in linkage with other deleterious alleles (Stephens et al. 2016). Since the discovery of the *Bu* gene, there have been intensive efforts to incorporate this gene while maintaining other desirable traits. Stephens et al. (2016) located potential markers for use in marker-assisted selection (MAS), as did Ward et al. (2012). However, marker accuracy was dependent on pedigree, and additional work is needed to determine marker usefulness for breeding. Genetic engineering has also been explored as an avenue for RBDV resistance. Red raspberry 'Meeker' was transformed successfully with the coat and movement protein genes of RBDV using *Agrobacterium*-mediated transformation to confer resistance to the common RBDV isolates (Martin and Mathews 2001; Martin et al. 2001). However, public wariness and governmental regulations of transgenic plants have impeded the advancement of these plants for cultivation or use as parents for breeding resistant progeny.

After the identification of *Bu*, resistance-breaking isolates were discovered in 1981 in the United Kingdom at about the same time that seed from the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics was introduced to the area (Barbara et al. 1984; Knight and Barbara 1981; Murant et al. 1982). Identifying additional sources of resistance became very important. Previous studies indicated the presence of additional resistance genes that were never fully identified, but which appeared to provide quantitative resistance to the resistance-breaking isolate when *Bu* was also present (Jennings and Jones 1989; Jones et al. 1982). Although resistance-breaking isolates have been observed in the United Kingdom and other European countries, the first report in the United States came from Washington in 2014 (Lanning 2014; Lanning et al. 2016). A viral survey would be of great benefit to

researchers and breeders as there have not been any further reports of this strain in the United States.

Genetics of Phytophthora root rot resistance. Identifying and understanding Phytophthora root rot has been a significant goal of breeding programs in the PNW since the 1970s, and in the United Kingdom since the 1980s (Barritt et al. 1979, 1981; Knight et al. 1989). Barritt et al. (1979) screened germplasm for resistance or susceptibility to Phytophthora root rot and determined high heritability estimates for resistance, concluding that resistance was additive, and rapid genetic gain was achievable. Knight and Fernández-Fernández (2008) evaluated the nature of resistance in a half-diallel analysis and suggested that resistance was an additive, quantitative trait. Similar results were obtained by Nestby and Heiberg (1995); however, they found that nonadditive gene action occurred as well.

As molecular techniques have advanced, our understanding of the underlying genetic mechanisms and modes of inheritance for Phytophthora root rot resistance has improved and reinforced some of the conclusions of past studies. Like Nestby and Heiberg (1995), Pattison et al. (2007) demonstrated multiple gene actions. Depending on the trait being measured (petiole lesion incidence and plant disease index), additive or dominance effects may have accounted for a significant proportion of the variance. Their results suggested other gene effects contributed to recorded phenotypes alongside additive and/or dominance effects, and Pattison et al. (2007) proposed that qualitative or quantitative measures could be used to evaluate and improve resistance. The application of molecular markers for selecting resistant genotypes was demonstrated by Weber et al. (2008), who found that a sequence characterized amplified region marker and a cleaved amplified polymorphic sequence marker were 62% and 56% accurate, respectively, in selecting a resistant individual. Use of both markers allowed for the retention of 85% of resistant individuals. Additional quantitative trait loci (QTLs) associated with Phytophthora root rot resistance allowed for further investigation into potential mechanisms of resistance, such as the involvement of auxin or germin-like protein in the initiation of new axial growth as a defense response. These QTLs can support the development of predictive molecular marker assays to increase selection efficiency for resistant raspberry progeny using MAS (Graham et al. 2011; Pattison et al. 2007).

Several available red raspberry cultivars have desirable levels of Phytophthora root rot resistance, including 'Latham' and 'Asker'. In addition, wild, uncultivated species have been examined as novel sources of genetic resistance for root rot (Barritt et al. 1979; Røen et al. 2012). Several of these species possess desirable resistance levels, such as *R. spectabilis*, as well as *R. coreanus*, *R. nominatus*, *R. niveus*, *R. lasiostylus*, and *R. strigosus* (Kempler et al. 2012; Knight 1991). Breeding efforts by the WSU raspberry breeding program for improving red raspberry resistance to Phytophthora

root rot has produced several notable red raspberry cultivars from the 'Cascade' series with moderate to high levels of resistance, including 'Cascade Delight', 'Cascade Harvest', 'Cascade Bounty', and 'Cascade Dawn' (Moore 2004, 2006; Moore and Finn 2007; Moore et al. 2015).

Genetics of *Verticillium* wilt resistance. Despite the importance of *Verticillium* wilt in black raspberry production, there are few publications elucidating resistance or sources of resistance. No resistance to *Verticillium* wilt has been reported for released black raspberry cultivars (Fiola and Swartz 1994; Zeller 1936). Resistance in red raspberry and blackberry has been established. Red raspberry cultivars such as 'Antwerp', 'Cayuga', 'Cuthbert', 'Marlboro', 'Ohta', 'Owasco', 'Seneca', 'Superlative', and 'Syracuse' can potentially serve as sources of resistance for black raspberry breeding (Darrow 1937). However, cultivars resistant to one strain of *V. dahliae* may not be resistant to others, as noted by Zeller (1936). Resistance and tolerance have been further demonstrated in Asiatic species of red raspberry (Zeller 1936). Native PNW species, *R. spectabilis* and *R. parviflorus*, had minimal to no symptoms of infection and serve as additional sources of resistance. Other regional species such as *R. leucodermis* are long-lived in the face of infection, but with significant yield losses.

Early breeding efforts indicated that the mechanisms of resistance may be quantitative. Backcrossing to red raspberry has not resulted in distinct segregating phenotypes. In addition, progeny in subsequent generations show weak or no resistance, suggesting that numerous small-effect genes may be at play (Keep 1976, 1989). A partial diallel analysis also indicated additive gene action and tolerance rather than resistance (Fiola and Swartz 1994). *Verticillium dahliae* was isolated from resistant cultivars, indicating these plants remained economically productive under infection (Fiola and Swartz 1994). More recently, an RNA sequencing study was performed to identify candidate genes involved in *V. dahliae* infection in black raspberry (Bushakra et al. 2016). Several transcripts were identified as homologs to the *Vel* resistance gene in tomato, but were not detected among the differentially expressed genes (DEGs) characterized in the study. Other general pest and pathogen response genes were observed among the DEGs. The identification of these genes in response to *V. dahliae* infection presents the opportunity to understand tolerance in black raspberry more fully.

Genetics of *B. cinerea* resistance. The earliest publications on breeding programs detailed the struggle to develop cultivars with *Botrytis* resistance. One of the primary complications is that the same causal organism causes two diseases: cane *Botrytis* and gray mold (syn. fruit *Botrytis*). Cane *Botrytis* appears to be a significant contributor to gray mold development in fruit (Jennings and Brydon 1989). Knight (1980a) also found a positive correlation between cane *Botrytis* and gray mold incidence. Jennings and Carmichael (1975) recommended selecting individuals

resistant to cane *Botrytis* and gray mold to reduce inoculum. In contrast, other researchers determined there was no strong correlation between cane *Botrytis* and gray mold development and stated that prior reports of significant correlations were the result of a few strong correlations in evaluated cultivars (Daubeny and Pepin 1981; Knight 1980b).

Decades of research by breeding programs in British Columbia, Scotland, and England indicate that cane *Botrytis* resistance is complex and is likely conferred by a combination of additive, minor genes and few major genes (Daubeny 1987; Jennings 1983; Jennings and Brydon 1989). Gene *H*, which is responsible for cane pubescence, also appeared to be associated significantly with cane *Botrytis* resistance (Graham et al. 2006), although not strongly (Knight 1980a). Whether this association was a result of linkage with resistance genes or physiological differences that deterred infection is unknown (Graham et al. 2006). Resistance not associated with gene *H* has been noted to be present in the Asiatic species *R. pileatus*, *R. crataegifolius*, *R. coreanus*, and *Rubus mesogaeus* and the North American species *R. occidentalis* and *R. strigosus* (Jennings 1983; Jennings and Brydon 1989; Jennings and Williamson 1982; Keep et al. 1977; Knight 1980a, 1980b). It is believed that red raspberry 'Chief' (PI 553508) inherited this resistance from the *R. strigosus* in its pedigree (Daubeny 1987).

Most of the published studies in postharvest fruit rot resistance date back at least 45 years. Resistance has been observed in *R. occidentalis*, *R. crataegifolius*, and *Rubus phoenicolasius* (Kichina 1976; Knight 1980a, 1980b). Red raspberry 'Matsqui' (PI 553391) and 'Cuthbert' have repeatedly demonstrated low gray mold incidence in fruit rot testing procedures (Barritt 1971; Daubeny and Pepin 1969, 1974). Red raspberries 'Carnival' (PI 553481), 'Meeker', 'Glen Isla' (PI 553510), 'Nootka', and 'Ottawa' have also been reported to have low gray mold incidence (Barritt 1971; Daubeny and Pepin 1969, 1974). Combined, it appears that there is tolerance primarily occurring in the cultivars reported to have low disease incidence. Furthermore, there appears to be correlations in berry color and other characteristics to resistance, as Harshman et al. (2014) found purple and black raspberries resisted rot the longest. Resistant raspberries had the highest phenolics and anthocyanins and the lowest ethylene evolution rates, which may be contributing to delayed disease development. The researchers suggested that breeding for low ethylene production of berries may protect against rot.

Current Understanding of Insect Pest Resistance Genetics

Genetics of SWD resistance. Host plant resistance is also critical in integrated pest management, although few studies related to SWD have occurred in red raspberry. Strong resistance against SWD has not been observed, but some cultivars are more susceptible to SWD than others (Burrack et al. 2013; Lee et al.

2011; Wöhner et al. 2021). Lee et al. (2011) found no difference in susceptibility to SWD for six cultivars (Table 2). Burrack et al. (2013) also evaluated several berry crops, including nine red raspberry cultivars (Table 2), against SWD and detected variable infestation rates but no resistance among cultivars. However, there was a need to validate the apparent reduced preference among cultivars, which had lower infestation rates (Burrack et al. 2013). Wöhner et al. (2021) evaluated 37 floricanes and 23 primocane fruiting red raspberry cultivars and confirmed previous reports of varying levels of susceptibility and an absence of strong resistance to SWD. Of the 60 cultivars tested, only 'Dorman Red' (PI 553425), a Mississippian floricanes fruiting type (Overcash 1972), and 'Pokusa', a Polish primocane fruiting type, were classified as tolerant. Infestation appeared to be strongly correlated to berry firmness, but was not correlated with Brix and acidity. This finding contrasts with previous reports of a positive correlation between Brix and SWD development, and a lack of correlation with pH (Lee et al. 2011). Many other cultivars have not been evaluated, and assessing common PNW raspberry cultivars for susceptibility to SWD would be useful.

Genetics of American large raspberry aphid resistance. Genetic resistance to *A. agathonica* has been studied since the 1920s to mitigate the spread of the raspberry mosaic virus complex (Rankin 1927; Rankin and Hockey 1922). Research has indicated separate resistance genes to *A. idaei* and *A. agathonica*, which were thought to be the same species before the discovery of these genes (Hill 1956).

To date, few known resistance genes to *A. agathonica* have been identified in raspberry. Resistance genes *Ag₁*, *Ag₂*, *Ag₃*, *Ag₄*, and *Ag₅*, and an undesigntated resistance gene (syn. *Ag₆*) have been discovered in plants from the northeastern United States or southeastern Canada (Daubeny 1966; Daubeny and Sary 1982; Dossett and Finn 2010). In contrast, 13 resistance genes to *A. idaei* are known in Europe (*A₁*-*A₁₀*, *A_{K4a}*, *A_{L518}*, and *A_{cor}*) (Fernández-Fernández et al. 2013; Knight et al. 1959, 1960; Ourecky 1975). The most well-known and deployed resistance gene, *Ag₁*, was originally found in red raspberry 'Lloyd George' and was used for more than 50 years in breeding programs (Daubeny 1966). However, an aphid biotype was discovered in the early 1990s that broke resistance conferred by *Ag₁* (Daubeny and Anderson 1993). *Ag₂* and *Ag₃* are also dominant genes derived from red raspberry, specifically a wild *R. strigosus* population found in Ottawa, Canada, but unlike *Ag₁*, these genes were complementary and conferred only partial resistance (Daubeny and Sary 1982). The phenotypic similarities between the three genes has made it challenging to incorporate *Ag₂* and *Ag₃* reliably into new red raspberry cultivars (Dossett and Kempler 2012). *Ag₄*, *Ag₅*, and *Ag₆* resistance genes come from *R. occidentalis* accessions collected from Maine and Michigan, USA, and Ontario, Canada. These three genes are of great interest because native genes are easier to integrate into breeding lines than red

Table 2. Red raspberry (*Rubus idaeus*) cultivars evaluated for spotted-wing drosophila (*Drosophila suzukii*) resistance.

| Cultivar | PI no. | Fruiting type | Breeding program | Study |
|--------------------|-----------|---------------|--|---|
| Cascade Delight | — | Florican | Washington State University, Puyallup, WA, USA | Lee et al. (2011), Wöhner et al. (2021) |
| Centennial | PI 618456 | Florican | Washington State University, Puyallup, WA, USA; University of Idaho, Sandpoint, ID, USA; Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR, USA; US Department of Agriculture, Corvallis, OR, USA | Lee et al. (2011) |
| Coho | PI 618392 | Primocane | Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR, USA; US Department of Agriculture, Corvallis, OR, USA | Lee et al. (2011) |
| Encore | PI 638282 | Primocane | Cornell University, Geneva, NY, USA | Lee et al. (2011) |
| Malahat | PI 638206 | Florican | Pacific Agri-Food Research Centre of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada | Lee et al. (2011) |
| Willamette | PI 553362 | Florican | US Department of Agriculture, Corvallis, OR, USA | Lee et al. (2011), Wöhner et al. (2021) |
| Autumn Britten | PI 653100 | Primocane | Horticulture Research International, East Malling, Kent, UK | Burrack et al. (2013) |
| Caroline | PI 653101 | Primocane | University of Maryland, College Park, MD, USA; Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, USA; Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blackstone, VA, USA; University of Wisconsin-River Falls, River Falls, WI, USA | Burrack et al. (2013) |
| Joan J | — | Primocane | Medway Fruits, Kent, UK | Burrack et al. (2013) |
| NC 344 | — | Florican | North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, USA | Burrack et al. (2013) |
| Nantahala | — | Primocane | North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, USA | Burrack et al. (2013) |
| Nova | PI 553480 | Primocane | Agriculture Canada, Kentville, Nova Scotia, Canada | Burrack et al. (2013) |
| Octavia | — | Florican | — | Burrack et al. (2013) |
| NCTG-1 | — | Florican | — | Burrack et al. (2013) |
| Dorman Red | PI 553425 | Florican | Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS, USA | Wöhner et al. (2021) |
| Japanese Wineberry | — | Florican | — | Wöhner et al. (2021) |
| Him BK33-122 | — | Florican | — | Wöhner et al. (2021) |
| Gelbe Gigant | — | Florican | — | Wöhner et al. (2021) |
| Schwarze aus Brunn | — | Florican | — | Wöhner et al. (2021) |
| Malling Promise | PI 553425 | Florican | Horticulture Research International, East Malling, Kent, UK | Wöhner et al. (2021) |
| Him BK33-85 | — | Florican | — | Wöhner et al. (2021) |
| Wei Rula | — | Florican | — | Wöhner et al. (2021) |
| Him 14 30-128 | — | Florican | — | Wöhner et al. (2021) |
| Madawaska | PI 553376 | Florican | Agriculture Canada, Abbotsford, British Columbia, Canada | Wöhner et al. (2021) |
| Royalty | PI 553302 | Florican | Cornell University, Geneva, NY, USA | Wöhner et al. (2021) |
| Tula Magic | — | Florican | Promo-Fruit Ltd., Rafz, Switzerland | Wöhner et al. (2021) |
| Himbo Star | — | Florican | Promo-Fruit Ltd., Rafz, Switzerland | Wöhner et al. (2021) |
| Radziejowa | — | Florican | — | Wöhner et al. (2021) |
| Schonemann | PI 553527 | Florican | University of Bonn, Bonn, Germany | Wöhner et al. (2021) |
| Rumiloba | — | Florican | — | Wöhner et al. (2021) |
| Preussen | PI 553525 | Florican | University of Bonn, Bonn, Germany | Wöhner et al. (2021) |
| Oktavia | — | Florican | — | Wöhner et al. (2021) |
| Rumla | — | Florican | — | Wöhner et al. (2021) |
| Glen Ample | PI 689559 | Florican | Scottish Crop Research Institute | Wöhner et al. (2021) |
| Nootka | PI 553372 | Florican | Agriculture Canada, Abbotsford, British Columbia, Canada | Wöhner et al. (2021) |
| Loganberry | — | Florican | — | Wöhner et al. (2021) |
| Rubaca | — | Florican | Technical University of Munich, Munich, Germany | Wöhner et al. (2021) |
| Reflamba | — | Florican | — | Wöhner et al. (2021) |
| Elida | — | Florican | — | Wöhner et al. (2021) |
| Kozacka | — | Florican | — | Wöhner et al. (2021) |
| Lloyd George | PI 643942 | Florican | — | Wöhner et al. (2021) |
| Sugana | — | Florican | Lubera Ag, Buchs, Switzerland | Wöhner et al. (2021) |
| Tulameen | PI 618441 | Florican | Agriculture Canada, Abbotsford, British Columbia, Canada | Wöhner et al. (2021) |
| Malling Freya | — | Florican | Horticulture Research International, East Malling, Kent, UK | Wöhner et al. (2021) |
| Meeker | PI 553384 | Florican | Washington State University, Puyallup, WA, USA | Wöhner et al. (2021) |
| Sanibelle | — | Florican | Technical University of Munich, Munich, Germany | Wöhner et al. (2021) |

(Continued on next page)

Table 2. (Continued)

| Cultivar | PI no. | Fruiting type | Breeding program | Study |
|-------------------|-----------|---------------|--|---|
| Sokolica | — | Florican | — | Wöhner et al. (2021) |
| Gelbe Antwerpen | — | Florican | — | Wöhner et al. (2021) |
| Pokusa | — | Primocane | Research Institute of Pomology and Floriculture, Brzezna, Poland | Wöhner et al. (2021) |
| Autumn First | — | Primocane | Lubera Ag, Buchs, Switzerland | Wöhner et al. (2021) |
| Amira (BP-1) | — | Primocane | Berryplant, Baselga di Pinè, Italy | Wöhner et al. (2021) |
| Himbo Top | — | Primocane | Promo-Fruit Ltd., Rafz, Switzerland | Burrack et al. (2013), Wöhner et al. (2021) |
| Autumn Best | — | Primocane | Lubera Ag, Buchs, Switzerland | Wöhner et al. (2021) |
| Heritage | — | Primocane | Cornell University, Geneva, NY, USA | Wöhner et al. (2021) |
| Fall Gold | PI 553507 | Primocane | University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH, USA | Wöhner et al. (2021) |
| Aroma Queen | — | Primocane | — | Wöhner et al. (2021) |
| Saxa Record | — | Primocane | — | Wöhner et al. (2021) |
| Goldmarie | — | Primocane | — | Wöhner et al. (2021) |
| Polana | PI 653106 | Primocane | Research Institute of Pomology and Floriculture, Brzezna, Poland | Wöhner et al. (2021) |
| Kweli | — | Primocane | Advanced Berry Breeding, Hedel, Netherlands | Wöhner et al. (2021) |
| Golden Everest | — | Primocane | — | Wöhner et al. (2021) |
| Autumn Bliss | PI 553325 | Primocane | Horticulture Research International, East Malling, Kent, UK | Wöhner et al. (2021) |
| Gelbe Siebenkugel | — | Primocane | — | Wöhner et al. (2021) |
| Ruby Fall | — | Primocane | — | Wöhner et al. (2021) |
| Kwanza | — | Primocane | Advanced Berry Breeding, Hedel, Netherlands | Wöhner et al. (2021) |
| Enrosadira | — | Primocane | Molari Berries & Breeding, Cesena, Italy | Wöhner et al. (2021) |
| Zefa 3 | — | Primocane | — | Wöhner et al. (2021) |
| Poranna Rosa | — | Primocane | Research Institute of Pomology and Floriculture, Brzezna, Poland | Wöhner et al. (2021) |
| Regina | — | Primocane | Berryplant, Baselga di Pinè, Italy | Wöhner et al. (2021) |
| Mapema | — | Primocane | Advanced Berry Breeding, Hedel, Netherlands | Wöhner et al. (2021) |
| Polka | — | Primocane | Research Institute of Pomology and Floriculture, Brzezna, Poland | Wöhner et al. (2021) |
| Fallred Streib | — | Primocane | — | Wöhner et al. (2021) |

raspberry resistance genes. Introgression from red raspberry involves several generations of backcrossing to reconstitute the black raspberry fruit phenotype from the “purple hybrids” that result from black raspberry and red raspberry crosses (Dossett and Finn 2010). *Ag₆* had similar phenotypic responses as *Ag₄* and requires further investigation to determine its novelty (Dossett and Finn 2010).

Wild *R. strigosus* accessions have been of significant interest because these plants have demonstrated resistance to the aphid and are the source of Phytophthora root rot resistance in red raspberry cultivars such as ‘Newburgh’ and ‘Latham’ (Daubeney and Stary 1982; Daubeney et al. 1992). Accessions of *R. idaeus*, *R. spectabilis*, *R. crataegifolius*, and *R. parviflorus* also have aphid resistance (Daubeney et al. 1992). The details of these resistance sources remain vague and have not yet been compared with previously identified resistance genes. Although these sources may have underutilized resistance, incorporating these genetics presents additional challenges, including limited diversity, varying degrees of hybrid compatibility with *R. idaeus* or *R. occidentalis*, and the incorporation of undesirable wild traits following successful interspecific hybridization.

Additional research into the resistance mechanisms of these genes may aid breeding efforts. Aphid resistance has been characterized as either antixenosis resistance (affects

feeding and alters insect behavior), antibiosis resistance (affects biotic potential of the insect such as fecundity) or tolerance (the plant’s ability to remain economically vigorous in the face of infestation) (van Emden 2007). To date, *Ag₁*, *Ag₄*, *Ag₅*, and an undesigned resistance gene have been evaluated for their resistance mechanisms. *Ag₁* demonstrated antixenosis, as did *Ag₄* to *Ag₆*, making it difficult to distinguish each of these genes based on phenotype alone (Kennedy and Schaefer 1974; Lightle et al. 2012, 2015). Although still unclear, *Ag₂* and *Ag₃* may have more of an antibiotic mechanism, as small colonies of aphids were observed on

these plants (Daubeney and Stary 1982). Similar observations of red raspberry ‘Washington’ were made by Kennedy and Schaefer (1974), who concluded that ‘Washington’ demonstrated antibiosis. ‘Washington’ is derived from a cross between ‘Cuthbert’, a chance seedling selected from the wild in the northeastern United States, likely derived from *R. strigosus*, and ‘Lloyd George’, a chance seedling selected from the wild in Scotland, likely derived from *R. idaeus*. It appears that ‘Washington’ did not inherit *Ag₁* from ‘Lloyd George’, but potentially inherited genes such as *Ag₂* and *Ag₃* or uncharacterized genes from ‘Cuthbert’ (Kennedy and Schaefer 1974).

Table 3. *Rubus* spp. with published reference genomes.

| Study | Species | Ploidy | Berry type | Cultivar | Genome size (Mb) |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------|-----------------|----------------------|------------------|
| VanBuren et al. (2016) | <i>Rubus occidentalis</i> | 2x | Black raspberry | ORUS 4115-3 | 243 |
| VanBuren et al. (2018) | <i>R. occidentalis</i> | 2x | Black raspberry | ORUS 4115-3 | 290 |
| Jibran et al. (2018) | <i>R. occidentalis</i> | 2x | Black raspberry | ORUS 4115-3 | 223.8 |
| Wight et al. (2019) | <i>Rubus idaeus</i> | 2x | Red raspberry | Joan J | 300 |
| Davik et al. (2022) | <i>R. idaeus</i> | 2x | Red raspberry | Anitra | 291.7 |
| Price et al. (2023) | <i>R. idaeus</i> | 2x | Red raspberry | Autumn Bliss | 263 |
| | <i>R. idaeus</i> | 2x | Red raspberry | Malling Jewel | 265.5 |
| Worthington et al. (2020) | <i>Rubus ulmifolius</i> | 2x | Blackberry | Burbank Thornless | 341 |
| | <i>Rubus argutus</i> | 2x | Blackberry | Hillquist | 314 |
| Buřna et al. (2023) | <i>R. argutus</i> | 2x | Blackberry | Hillquist | 298 |
| Paudel et al. (2025) | <i>Rubus</i> spp. | 4x | Blackberry | Watson BL1 selection | 247 |
| Wang et al. (2021) | <i>Rubus chingii</i> | 2x | Red raspberry | — | 231.21 |

The development and deployment of molecular markers associated with each of these genes would be beneficial for breeders seeking to improve selection and combine multiple sources of resistance in future cultivars.

Improvements in Plant Breeding

Red and black raspberries and other caneberries are challenging to breed. They are labor-intensive with long breeding cycles and require significant time and resources per breeding cycle. Advances such as genomic selection and high-throughput phenotyping (HTP) may help to reduce investments, thus shortening the breeding cycle through improved selection and evaluation efficiency. Genomic and phenomic methodological advancements arise from the progress in genetic technologies as well as in drones, imaging, robotics, and artificial intelligence, which increase the affordability and availability of important tools to plant breeders. These technological improvements have been accompanied by the development of improved statistical methods, software, and computing infrastructure that facilitate the analysis of large “omics” datasets, leading to a better understanding of the genomes and genetic architecture of agricultural phenotypes.

Studies of genomic and phenomic methodologies for plant breeding are abundant for staple field crops such as corn (*Zea mays*) and wheat (*Triticum aestivum*). Marker-assisted breeding (MAB) and HTP, discussed here, are two techniques that interest plant breeders. Other such techniques, including genetic engineering, genome editing, speed breeding, and mutation breeding, have been reviewed in Elango et al. (2021). Some phenomic and genomic methodologies have begun to be implemented in raspberry breeding systems, but there are still many opportunities to study these techniques.

Caneberry Genetics and Genomics

Genome sequencing and targeted genotyping are critical for developing MAB capabilities and investigating the genetic basis of traits of interest. High-throughput sequencing has become increasingly affordable, making genetic and genomic analytic methods more accessible to horticultural and specialty crops. Only within the past two decades have these methods been used to examine traits that are breeding targets in specialty crops such as caneberries. Publication of genomic studies in caneberries has increased within the past decade. Genetic maps have been published from multiple red raspberry biparental populations using simple sequence repeats (SSRs), amplified fragment length polymorphisms (AFLPs), expressed sequence tags (ESTs), random amplified polymorphic DNA (RAPD), resistance gene analog polymorphisms, single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs), and EST-SSRs (Graham et al. 2002, 2004; Pattison et al. 2007; Ward et al. 2012). Studies using AFLPs and RAPD led the development of genetic maps because these marker types do not require

a reference genome (Jiang 2013), which have only become available since 2016 (Table 3). The black raspberry genome was sequenced and assembled to chromosome scale, followed by red raspberry and blackberry (Brüna et al. 2023; Davik et al. 2022; Jibrán et al. 2018; Paudel et al. 2025; Price et al. 2023; VanBuren et al. 2016, 2018; Wight et al. 2019; Worthington et al. 2020). A reference genome was also developed for a red raspberry native to Asia, *Rubus chingii* (Wang et al. 2021). Accurately assembled and annotated genome sequences enable downstream studies to identify genetic loci, develop and deploy molecular markers for targeted genotyping, map new traits, and accelerate cultivar development.

Linkage and association mapping are valuable techniques for elucidating the genomic loci controlling phenotypic variation for important commercial traits and supporting marker development for MAS. Linkage mapping generally uses one or more biparental populations to determine the recombination frequency of genetic markers and estimate the order and genetic distance between adjacent markers to produce a map (Collard et al. 2005). QTLs associated with traits of interest are then identified using several different statistical methods that, generally speaking, divide the study population into groups according to genotype at the locus of a marker of interest and evaluate these groups for a statistically significant difference for the trait of interest (Tanksley 1993). Unlike linkage mapping, which is limited to investigating the effects of alleles contained in one or more biparental populations, association mapping uses diverse populations to investigate the effects of a wider set of alleles representing a crop's broader germplasm base (i.e., one or more breeding programs) (Gupta et al. 2014). Both methodologies have their statistical challenges, but one of the greatest differences is the low resolution and high power of detection of linkage mapping vs. the high resolution and low power of association mapping, with association mapping potentially failing to detect the effects of important rare alleles present in only a handful of accessions (Rincent et al. 2014; Zhu et al. 2008).

Currently, linkage mapping studies predominate in caneberry, with only three reported association mapping studies, two for blackberry and one for raspberry (Chizk et al. 2023; Godwin 2021; Khadgi and Weber 2021). Multiple studies on genetic loci for agronomic traits, fruit and nutritional quality, and biotic and abiotic resistance traits have occurred for red raspberry using linkage and association mapping methods (Bushakra et al. 2013; Graham et al. 2006, 2011; Kassim et al. 2009; Khadgi and Weber 2021; Molina-Bravo et al. 2014; Sargent et al. 2007; Scolari et al. 2021; Simpson et al. 2017). Similar studies have also been conducted in black raspberry, although with fewer examples and none involving association mapping (Bradish et al. 2016a, 2016b; Bushakra et al. 2013, 2015, 2018; Willman et al. 2022).

Genomics-assisted Breeding in Caneberries

The most relevant genomic methods for raspberry cultivar development are MAS and genomic selection (GS), or genomic prediction. MAS and GS are commonly used to increase selection efficiency in breeding and to enable selection for specific traits during early stages of plant development. They have been used extensively in many of the staple crops, particularly wheat and corn (Bassi et al. 2016). MAS uses molecular markers such as SNPs that are closely linked to specific genes or mutations of interest to predict the presence and dosage of a desirable allele in parents or progeny (Ben-Ari and Lavi 2012). GS uses information from numerous genome-wide molecular markers to produce genomic estimated breeding values for a given trait based on a related training population, which is then deployed in wider populations (Meuwissen et al. 2001). MAS has thus far been demonstrated to be well suited for tracking and assessing traits that are qualitative or controlled by few genes, whereas GS is better suited for traits that are highly quantitative and polygenic (Bernardo 2008; Poland and Rutkoski 2016). In red raspberry, MAS has been researched minimally and limited to tracking *P. rubi* and RBDV resistance (Ward et al. 2012; Weber et al. 2008). These studies indicated that it could be a successful tool for breeders, but genetic background effects have prevented the developed markers from being widely implemented. Additional studies are needed to identify markers that can track these traits reliably. More recently, markers related to *P. rubi* resistance and fruit-quality traits were validated for their use in Scottish breeding programs (Graham et al. 2011; Jennings et al. 2016).

Research to develop molecular markers for selecting aphid resistance genes in black raspberry has begun and is becoming more of a reality as further genetic information is generated. Bushakra et al. (2015) developed the first linkage map for black raspberry and mapped the location of *Ag₄* to chromosome 6 using the phenotypic marker *Ag₄*-AphidR. Bushakra et al. (2018) later mapped *Ag₅* and the unnamed gene with this same linkage map and developed potential molecular markers. The primers designed for these markers were SSRs and high-resolution melting (HRM) markers. Of the 93 primers tested, four were associated with resistance in a validation set of parents and three resistant and three susceptible progeny from 16 families. An HRM marker, S99_122915_HRM, differentiated resistant individuals from susceptible ones regardless of source (Fig. 8). An SSR marker, S99_13262, and a presence/absence marker after agarose gel electrophoresis, S525_111520_gel, identified resistant individuals with the unnamed or *Ag₄* resistance sources. Another SSR marker, S99_476941, was specific to the *Ag₅* source. None of the identified markers could distinguish between the *Ag₄* and unnamed sources of resistance. Given the limited size of the validation population, Bushakra et al. (2018) recommended first testing these primers

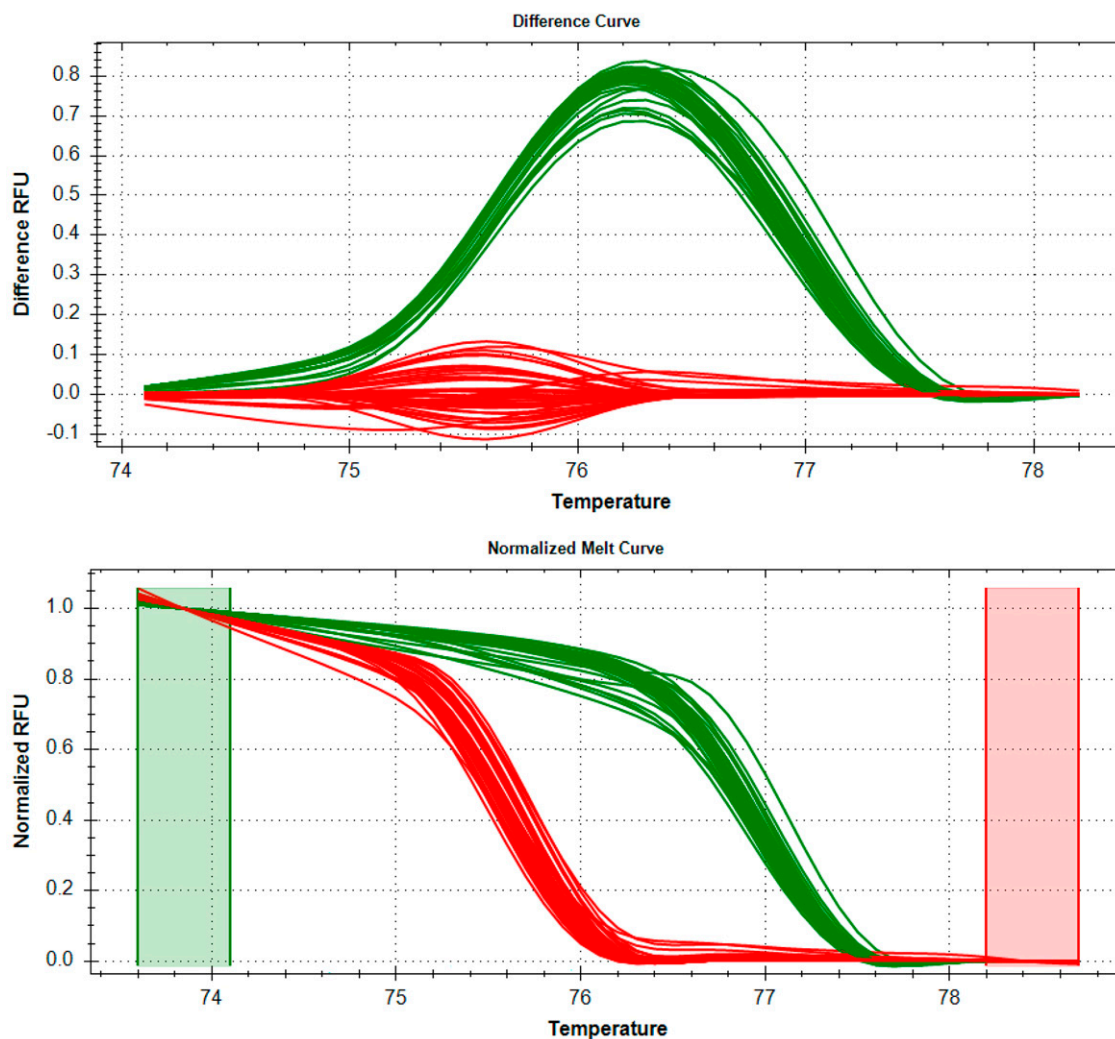


Fig. 8. Difference melt curves (**top**) and normalized melt curves (**bottom**) produced using the high-resolution melting (HRM) marker S99_122915_HRM. Green curves correspond to plants carrying at least one resistance gene whereas red curves correspond to susceptible plants. Figures courtesy of Nahla Bassil and Ryan King, US Department of Agriculture–Agricultural Research Service. RFU = relative fluorescence units.

on parents before using them to evaluate progeny. The USDA-ARS HCPGIRU breeding program has used the HRM marker routinely to screen black raspberry seedlings for aphid resistance. Most recently, Mulch (2021) conducted differential gene expression analysis using the whole-leaf transcriptomes of genetically resistant and susceptible progeny from three black raspberry mapping populations, each containing one of the three sources of resistance found by Dossett and Finn (2010)—*Ag₄*, *Ag₅*, and the undesignated resistance gene—in response to inoculation with aphids. Their study found various significantly DEGs across each of the mapping populations. In the mapping population with *Ag₄*, significant DEGs were found on chromosomes 2, 3, 4, and 6. The mapping population with *Ag₅* had significant DEGs observed on chromosomes 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, and 7. The final population with the undesignated resistance gene had significant DEGs on chromosomes 1, 2, 3, 6, and 7. The occurrence of significant DEGs on chromosome 6 provides additional support for the presence of these resistance genes on chromosome 6 (Bushakra et al. 2015, 2018). Mulch (2021) suggested that the other genes may be associated with

general stress response genes. By combining the information obtained by Bushakra et al. (2015, 2018) and Mulch (2021), the location of *Ag₄*, *Ag₅*, and the undesignated resistance gene can be mapped with greater precision and can aid in the development of more efficient molecular markers that can be used by plant breeders to target each locus/gene and to combine (or “pyramid”) multiple sources of resistance.

To date, there have been no studies investigating the use of GS in red raspberry breeding programs. Successful development and deployment of these methods would benefit caneberry breeders significantly who are still relying predominantly on traditional methods for trait selection. This is particularly true for traits caused by pests and pathogens such as *P. penetrans*, the resistance mechanisms of which appear to be quantitative, and the effects of which may not fully manifest during the earliest years of plant development.

Phenomics Methods in Caneberries

HTP can be important to plant breeders because these technologies enable rapid

data collection and characterization of traits of interest in large populations. HTP can include imaging and environmental sensors, although investigations and development of data processing procedures for imaging are discussed most heavily in the literature (Shakoor et al. 2017). Like genotyping, costs for HTP have declined in the past 10 years, making these technologies more accessible.

High-throughput imaging can reduce the effects of human bias and the time spent phenotyping material. This is particularly helpful for traits that require time-intensive or destructive assessments. These imaging systems have variable setups and sensors capable of recording data across infrared (IR) and visible light spectra (Shakoor et al. 2017). The raw data produced are generally not useful as traditional phenotypic measurements, but can be converted by mathematical modeling into relevant metrics for assessing plant characteristics and performance (Kior et al. 2021). Some of the prominent technologies for automated field-based imaging include mounted ground-based systems, unmanned aerial vehicles, and satellites.

To date, there have been few studies that have investigated or used HTP in red raspberry

production. Williams et al. (2017) described a design for a mounted ground-based system capable of imaging maturing canes of red raspberry with shortwave IR and visible and near-IR sensors. This system involved a tractor that drove along the rows pulling a trolley mounted with the sensors that captured side images of the plants, which were used to determine whether this method could accurately segment individual plants with hyperspectral imaging (Williams et al. 2017). Their results ultimately demonstrated they could, and this was the first report on ground-based segmentation for a bush crop. It was used again successfully to determine whether spectral data could be used with an existing linkage map and genetic markers for analyzing QTLs associated with desired biologic traits (Williams et al. 2021). Although its cost-effectiveness for more obvious phenotypic traits could be argued, the spectral QTLs also collocated with identified QTLs of traits that are difficult to phenotype, such as root damage and root density. The correlation between these traits indicated that HTP-based imaging could be helpful in phenotyping for soilborne pathogens. This has been reinforced with a recent study by Williams et al. (2023), who used a hand trolley system for lateral imaging of plants experiencing different abiotic and biotic stresses in a greenhouse. Four treatments were tested on red raspberry plants in the study: two abiotic stress treatments of low water availability and high water availability, and two biotic stress treatments of *P. rubi* or vine weevil (*Otiorhynchus sulcatus*) infestations. The various spectral ratios examined demonstrated strong correlations to multiple biophysical traits associated with these stresses (Williams et al. 2023). One challenge was that the available methods were not helpful in delineating the causal stresses from one another, and caution was needed to avoid misidentifying the causal stress.

Other characteristics have been assessed with different sensing technologies in red raspberry. Shortly after the publication of the results of the work by Williams et al. (2017), Pavlovic et al. (2018) reported the use of a thermal camera to assess canopy temperatures of red raspberry experiencing different irrigation and mulching treatments. Many of the correlations using the crop water stress index derived from the spectral data, soil moisture, and yield data resembled the same correlations for these traits in other crops, suggesting that this method could be a suitable, efficient alternative for soil moisture measurements. A ground-based hyperspectral imaging system different from the ones used by Williams et al. (2017, 2021, 2023) was used by Jung et al. (2019) to evaluate the effects of shade cover types on yield and berry characteristics of several red raspberry cultivars. Jung et al. (2019) used an ASD FieldSpec[®] 3 MAX (Malvern Panalytical Ltd., Malvern, UK) and a Cubert UHD185 (Cubert, Ulm, Germany) to derive the photochemical reflectance index (PRI), water index, normalized nitrogen index, and normalized difference vegetation index (NDVI). Significant differences in PRIs were observed, but not in other

indices in shade cover treatments. All red raspberry cultivars in the study had greater light utilization efficiency under shade than their unshaded counterparts. The initial results demonstrate the promise of using spectral data to assess red raspberry response to treatments.

In yet another imaging system, red raspberry berry shape and color were assessed using the automated PSI PlantScreen (TM) (Photon Systems Instruments, Drásov, Czech Republic) red, green, and blue (RGB) imaging system implemented by the University of Helsinki as part of a study on florican yield and berry quality (Palonen et al. 2021). Seven cultivars were considered, and it was found that HTP was an effective tool for evaluating both berry shape and berry color, but not for evaluating berry weight. Palonen et al. (2021) predicted that the colorimetric data provided by HTP will become increasingly widespread in coming years for harvest and postharvest assessments. Similarly, Sudars et al. (2022) developed a deep neural network model for recognizing and classifying red raspberry buds, flowers, and berries at various development stages in the field using RGB images; they have since released the model for public use.

Recently, Manganaris et al. (2023) presented the first investigation of the use of aerial remote sensing with drones to predict flowering and harvesting of select red raspberry cultivars Kweli, Imara, and Wengi in Cyprus. Ground-based measurements with soil plant analysis development (SPAD) meters were also collected. Traditional phenotype data on cane and physiological characteristics were recorded. The vegetative indices NDVI, normalized difference red-edge index, and green NDVI were calculated from remote data. Preliminary data support that the superior performance of 'Kweli' could be correlated to higher chlorophyll levels recorded with the SPAD meter, stomatal conductance, and fluorescence efficiency.

Conclusion

Many historically prominent diseases and pests of red and black raspberry in the PNW have been key research and breeding objectives for regional breeding programs since their inception. Improving our understanding of the genetics for resistance and tolerance of these biotic stresses is essential for developing elite cultivars with resistance to multiple major pests and diseases. New studies involving genetic mapping, association mapping, and genomic prediction are required to produce low-cost marker assays for selecting sources of resistance within existing breeding pipelines. As legislation and public opinion around chemical management shifts, production environments change, and global demand for small fruit increases, managing these issues effectively and sustainably by breeding resistant cultivars will be critical for future production. Developments in genomic and phenomic technologies present an opportunity for breeders to provide growers with resilient cultivars and to address emerging challenges

quickly. Evaluation and validation of these techniques for measuring biotic stress response in regional germplasm is needed before they can be implemented with confidence.

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