

Fruit Buds and Leaf Buds

Counting fruit buds is an essential first step in crop forecasting and yield estimation. To do this accurately, growers need to be able to distinguish between buds that will bear fruit, and buds which develop into leaves thus remain vegetative and have no fruit.

Fruit buds



Figure 1: Visible swelling of fruit buds; outer scales begin to separate as individual flowers emerge. There are usually 4 or 5 flowers within each fruit bud.



Figure 2: Seven fruit buds on this shoot; converts into 28 to 35 flowers.



Figure 3: Vestigial buds under the lowest fruit bud are un-productive



Figure 4: A shoot with fruit buds (left) compared to one with leaf buds. Both types of shoots occur on the same bush. Multiple leaves have emerged from the top buds and unfurled (right).

Leaf Buds



Figure 6: Leaf buds are pointed, tightly rolled and green. The green leaf tissue emerges rapidly as the leaf unfurls.

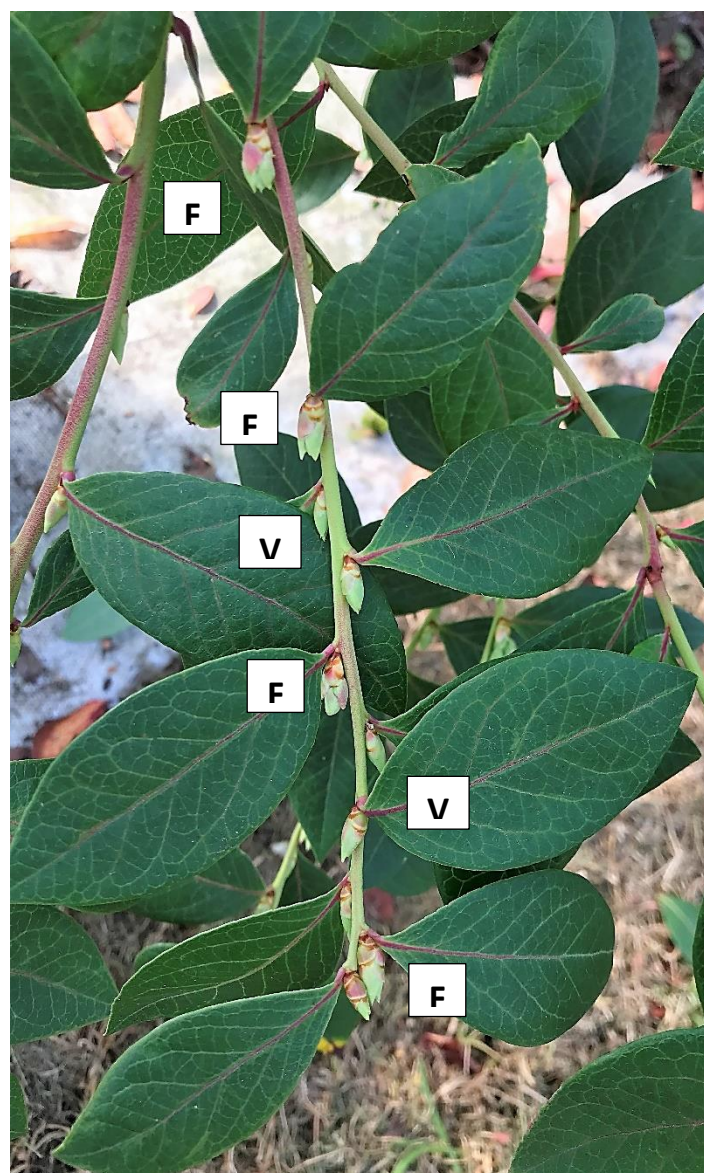


Figure 5: Vegetative buds (**V**) can occur alongside fruit buds (**F**)