



**June 24, 2008**

[Photos of the Week: 1\) Quiz: What's the cause of this symptom in blueberries? \[Click here\]\(#\) with any responses. 2\) Fruit sizing problem now in some blueberries.](#)

[Small Fruit Cold Storage Report](#)

[Upcoming Meetings](#) (a calendar of small fruit related events)

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

### **Crop Reports**

#### **Strawberries**

- **Northern Washington, Lynden:** (6/20) Strawberries ripening at the ends of rows- should start picking about June 30/July 1 if present temps continue. Brrrrr. Berries haven't sized well either.
- **Northern Washington, Mount Vernon:** (6/20) We're looking at starting strawberries July 1. We were warm (upper 60s/low 70s) Thursday, but cloudy with rain in the evening, so the weather situation seems to be improving but could still be much better. Strawberries under the tunnels look great.
- **Oregon/SW Washington:** (6/24) Harvest ongoing. Very good fruit quality.

#### **Raspberries**

- **British Columbia:** (6/24) Early pollination was hampered by a bad stretch of heavy rain and cool days and poor bee activity. Early fruit can now be seen as malformed and sure to be crumbly. We need this warm weather to push the flowering along, which has been as slow as I've ever seen. Probably a couple of weeks to clear up the flowering and get to the pre-harvest cleanup. Root rot is showing up now that we're into a drying trend. Good thing prices are on the up as it could get depressing out there. Everyone just wants to get this crop off in one piece!
- **Northern Washington, Lynden:** (6/20) Cool weather has allowed laterals to grow more, things look pretty OK at this point. Fruit development has probably suffered from the lack of adequate pollination, bees don't like cold weather. Global warming, right.
- **Oregon/SW Washington:** (6/24) Crop is coloring now with a few ripe berries. First harvests still scheduled for around June 30<sup>th</sup>--July 1<sup>st</sup>. Root rot collapse is evident but still looking like a good quality crop. There's some concern that it's not a deep crop. The first picks look good, but it's a question how long the season will last.

#### **Blackberries**

- **Oregon:** (6/24) It's been a good week for crop development, but we're looking at temperatures going into the mid 90s this weekend with a warm week next week. It should sort out the fruit that's going to develop and what's just too weak to hold up. Should have some early fresh market fruit coming in next week.

#### **Blueberries**

- **British Columbia:** (6/24) It's great to finally be getting some weather that resembles summer. We really need the sun to get these berries filling. This has been a trying spring for the blues. We're just starting to see the results of the spring weather and the early indications would be a crop that is not too deep. Pollination is a problem in Bluecrop and probably Elliot. Dukes appear to be filling, but size may be an issue. A real challenging spring. And lots of ruts to fill later.
- **Northern Washington, Lynden:** (6/20) Doesn't look like a large crop at this point; however, there are a lot of new acres. The blight/botrytis/mummyberry/shock problems have stabilized.
- **Oregon:** (6/24) Dukes have some ripening berries. Some Elliots have pretty small fruit. We should know after this hot weekend how well the late fruit is going to size up. A lot of Cedar Waxwings are around this year causing early bird problems.

### **Industry News**

- **Blueberries reduce cholesterol, for pigs at least:** [Click here](#) from *Food Productiondaily.com*.
- **Berries sweet but scarce during delayed season:** [Click here](#) for this article on the strawberry harvest in southwest Washington in *The Columbian*.
- **Syngenta may raise prices by 10% next year:** [Click here](#) from *Bloomberg.com*.
- **Blueberry boom makes B.C. fruit-farming leader:** [Click here](#) from *The Vancouver Sun*.

- **Chilean President and Schwarzenegger preside over signing of landmark agreements at UC Davis:** [Click here](#) for this on *Media Newswire*. Ag research continues to follow the industry in becoming more internationally integrated—for better or worse.

### AgWeatherNet--useful tools for Washington Berry growers and field reps

- AgWeatherNet is a network of weather stations throughout the state.
- [Click here](#). Registration is free. Reports on crop water use (including blueberries, raspberries and strawberries), rainfall, growing degree days, etc.
- Easy to use, especially if you use the "my favorites" feature.
- You can set up reports you frequently use for ready access with one click.
- Even better, you can have AgWeatherNet email the information to your computer or PDA every day, week or month.

### Field Days at Oregon State

- **Wednesday, July 2 --Oregon State Caneberry Open House** 1 PM, OSU NWREC, Aurora. "Please join us for an update of caneberry research and breeding programs at the NWREC. Meet us near the red raspberry plot on the SW section of the farm to hear about "Irrigation system effects on yield and root rot in raspberry" (Dr. Dave Bryla, USDA-ARS). We will also provide a summary of blackberry research at the NWREC (Dr. Bernadine Strik), pesticide registration update (Joe DeFrancesco) and walk the caneberry breeding plots (Dr. Chad Finn, USDA-ARS)".-- Bernadine Strik, Berry Crops Research Leader, NWREC ([strikb@hort.oregonstate.edu](mailto:strikb@hort.oregonstate.edu) ,503-678-1264 x 110)
- **Tuesday, July 8 --Oregon State Blueberry Field Day**, 1 PM, OSU NWREC, Aurora, "You are invited to attend Blueberry Field Day at NWREC. The program has been designed to highlight our research and education programs. I encourage you to come and see our trials, learn more about on-going projects and taste some cultivars and advanced selections"-- Bernadine Strik, Berry Crops Research Leader, NWREC [Click here](#) for the agenda. ([strikb@hort.oregonstate.edu](mailto:strikb@hort.oregonstate.edu) ,503-678-1264 x 110)

### Regional Updates

- **B.C. Blueberry Council IPM newsletter for June 19:** [Click here](#).
- **MSU Blueberry IPM Update for June 24:** [Click here](#).
- **Michigan State Fruit CAT Alert for June 24:** [Click here](#). From the report: "*Blueberries are beginning to color. Harvest of early varieties in the south should begin in a little over a week.*"
- **New Jersey Blueberry Bulletin for June 16:** [Click here](#), and then click on the June 16 bulletin. From the Bulletin-- "*The first picking of Duke has begun. The quality looks good. I believe the 2008 crop is average in size.*"

### New Pest Information

#### **Birds in blueberries:**

- **Guidelines for the Use of Propane Cannons and Other Bird Scare Auditory Devices, Whatcom County:** [Click here](#) for an interim bird control good management practices document posted on the Whatcom Farm Friends website.

#### **Insects**

- **Alert: Orange Tortrix leafrollers, southern caneberries:** The first evidence of the major orange tortrix leafroller hatch has been found in an Oregon raspberry field. Growers with fields that have a history of leafroller larvae contamination of fruit can use this time before harvest to help manage this contaminant species with Bt and Confirm (tebufenizide-an insect growth regulator) applications that conserve parasitoid/predator populations and can be use with bees in the field.
- **Strawberry Crown Moth, southern strawberries:** The first emerged SCM adult has been observed in a SW Washington strawberry fields. The main hatch by which we time control applications has not yet happened.
- **Aphids, blueberries:** Aphid populations have taken a big jump in southern blueberries and continue to increase in northern fields also.
- **Twospotted Mites, Raspberries:** A serious outbreak of two-spotted spider mites has developed in the Abbotsford area this past week. This has necessitated some control measures for both motiles and significant egg numbers. This has been a building issue all spring which is odd considering the cool, damp conditions.

### On-going Pest Information

#### **Insects**

- **Redberry Mites, late ripening blackberries:** Sulfur applications can go on now for preventing mites infestations and loss of berries later. Chester and Evergreen blackberries are most at risk.
- **Obliquebanded leafrollers, northern blueberries:** Larvae are reported at high levels in many British Columbia fields.
- **Twospotted Mites, Strawberries.**

- **Weevils, strawberries, blueberries:** For more weevil information, click on these links: [rough strawberry root weevil](#), [black vine root weevils](#), [strawberry root weevils](#).
- **Strawberry Crown Moth, southern caneberries:**
- **Raspberry Beetle**, northern raspberries.
- **Blueberry Gall Midge**, blueberries.

#### Diseases

- **Blueberry fungal diseases:** West side regions are seeing green fruit mold caused by botrytis. Plants are also vulnerable right now to alternaria and anthracnose infections although the symptoms of these diseases won't be seen until later. Stay on top of preventative fungicide applications.  
[Alternaria Fruit Rot](#), [Anthracnose Ripe Rot](#), [Botrytis](#), [Mummyberry](#).
- **Blueberry virus diseases:** [Shock virus](#), [Scorch Virus](#).
- **Raspberry and blackberry fungal diseases:** Raspberries and blackberries are also at risk of fungal disease problems. Right now yellow rust is the most visible disease in raspberries. Botrytis fruit mold infects open blooms and then stays dormant until the fruit starts ripening. Stay on top of fungicide applications on all caneberries to minimize fruit mold issues.  
[Yellow rust](#), [Botrytis](#), [Blackberry rust](#), [Cane and Leaf Rust](#), [Phytophthora Root Rot](#), [Purple Blotch](#)
- **Raspberry and blackberry virus diseases:** Raspberry Bushy Dwarf virus, [Raspberries](#), [Marionberries](#).

#### Cropwork

##### All crops

- Weed control.

##### Blueberries

- Scout for leafrollers and treat as needed.
- Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to confirm.
- Scout for aphids.
- Scout for weevil notching.
- During bloom, apply fungicide for fruit mold control.
- After petal fall treat for alternaria and/or anthracnose ripe rot as needed.

##### Blackberries

- Scout for rust and treat as needed.
- Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to confirm.
- During bloom, apply fungicide for fruit mold control.
- Plan for insect harvest contaminant management.

##### Raspberries

- Scout for rust and treat as needed.
- Scout for mites and treat as needed.
- Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to confirm.
- Apply fungicide for fruit mold control starting at 10% bloom.
- Plan for insect harvest contaminant management.

##### Strawberries

##### Harvest ongoing in the South

- Check weak areas for root weevil larvae, strawberry crown borers and/or root disease problems.
- Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to confirm.
- Watch for weevil notching and plan for weevil management if needed.
- Put out pheromone traps for strawberry crown moth in southern fields.