



**July 9, 2008**

[Photos of the Week](#): Current blackberry issues: Orange Tortrix larva that is a potential harvest contaminant and Cane and Leaf Rust.

[Small Fruit Cold Storage Report](#)

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

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

### **Crop Reports**

#### **Blueberries**

- **British Columbia:** (7/8) Duke and Reka are coloring. We probably won't see any picks until late July, maybe 20th to 25th for anything serious. The weather of late has produced some pretty serious vegetative growth in most varieties. It could be another indication of a lighter crop than could have been.
- **Northern Washington, Lynden:** (7/6) Blueberries starting to color. A couple of weeks until harvest starts.
- **Oregon/SW Washington:** (7/8) Dukes are now coming in. Fruit quality is very good. Some worries about how much the hot weather is going to affect fruit firmness, but it's supposed to cool down to near 80 starting Thursday. Still some concerns over fruit sizing and how deep the crop will be.

#### **Strawberries**

- **Northern Washington, Lynden:** (7/6) Processed strawberry harvest is in progress with excellent tonnage. It looks like there will only be one pick on many fields.
- **Northern Washington, Mount Vernon:** (7/4) Lots of lightning strikes and thunder near by for the last two days. 0.6 inches rain in 12 hours. Thought I was in North Carolina for a few hours!!! Strawberries are in full pick. Hood, Puget Reliance, Tillamook, and Totem are all coming in at once.
- **Oregon/SW Washington:** (7/8) Harvest is pretty well finished. Some fields had excellent yields others were way down. No labor problems this year. Overall quality was very good while fruit sizing was a real problem.

#### **Raspberries**

- **British Columbia:** (7/8) Late last week's cooler, moist weather took some of the stress off raspberries. There has been some setback due to mites, but the change in weather may have averted a more dangerous situation. The crop is ripening and machines will likely be into fields by the end of this week. Finally! The anticipation has been killing us.
- **Northern Washington, Lynden:** (7/6) That last blast of HOT weather really hit us below the belt. Those who sprayed in hot weather wished they had not. Lots of yellow and brown leaves mainly inside the canopy, and falling off already. Heat plus spray plus spur blight plus mites plus mildew??? Attention WSU, we need a small fruits plant pathologist.

**Northern Washington, Mount Vernon:** (7/6) Some sunburned berries. Coho seemed to be the hardest hit, as they seem to have little leaf cover this year.

- **Oregon/SW Washington:** (7/6)
  - **Black raspberries:** Harvest starts on Wednesday.
  - **Red raspberries:** Harvest is now ongoing. Some sunburn evident from last week's very hot weather but overall quality is excellent. So far, so good.

#### **Blackberries**

- **Oregon:** (7/8) Marions should start later this week. Crop is still looking below average in yields, below average in quality and fruit size and below average in price. Above average in frustration and disappointment.

### **Industry News**

- **USDA annual Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts report:** [Click here](#) for the report that was released yesterday. It contains official yield, acreage and tonnage figures by state for all the berry crops for the last 3 years.
- **New ODA program verifies identity of Marionberries:** [Click here](#) for this ODA article on the new Marionberry certification program.

- **Nothing but blue skies this year for Oregon blueberries:** [Click here](#) for this article from the Oregon Department of Ag.
- **Adoption of genetically engineered crops:** [Click here](#) for this USDA report.

### Industry Event News

- **July 10 –Berry Field Day at PARC Agassiz Abbotsford Farm**, 3-5 PM, 510 Clearbrook Road, Abbotsford. "See the latest released cultivars & potential selections: Strawberries (Stolo), Raspberries, (Chemainus, Saanich, Nanoose), Blueberries (Cultivar evaluations) and get updates on research, industry news and grower trials."— Chaim Kempler, Research Scientist, Fruit Breeding, Pacific Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. ([Kempler@agr.gc.ca](mailto:Kempler@agr.gc.ca), 604-796-2716)
- **July 14-16 –2008: The 9th International Vaccinium Symposium** will be held at Oregon State University in Corvallis. Any growers who would like to attend a day of sessions at the 9<sup>th</sup> International Vaccinium Symposium, can do so by registering on the day they wish to attend. The day rate for Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, (July 14-16) is \$125 per day (not including dinners). A program outline can be viewed at the web site: [Click here](#).
- **July 23 –WSU Raspberry mechanical harvesting trial open house** at the Randy Honcoop farm, Lynden, WA 2-4 PM For information/directions contact Pat Moore, WSU Raspberry and Strawberry Breeder, 253-445-4525 [moorepp@wsu.edu](mailto:moorepp@wsu.edu)

### Regional Updates

- **B.C. Blueberry Council IPM newsletter for July 3:** [Click here](#).
- **MSU Blueberry IPM Update for July 8:** [Click here](#).
- **MSU Fruit Crop IPM Alert for July 8:** [Click here](#).

**Blueberry Variety Ripening Chart:** [Click here](#) for this calendar on the Fall Creek Nursery site.

### New Pest Information

**Birds, British Columbia blueberries: Notice of changes in the Ministry of Agriculture's Guidelines for Propane Cannons** Basically 3 changes, 1) Separation distance to a neighboring residence increased from 150 to 200 meters. 2) Cannons are not to be operated between noon to 3 pm to create a quiet time. 3) Use of "bear bangers" scare devices are prohibited. Contact [Sonja Ring](#) (BC Blueberry Council's research coordinator) 604-613-2133 for information.

### Diseases

- **Blueberry Fruit Molds:** [Click here](#) for a PDF chart from Michigan State illustrating all the various fruit molds that can infect blueberries.

### On-going Pest Information

**Birds in blueberries:** [Click here](#) for an interim bird control good management practices document posted on the Whatcom Farm Friends website.

### Insects

- **Alert: Yellow mites, northern raspberries:** Fields continue to see very high pressure from this early season mite.
- **Alert: Twospotted Mites, Raspberries:** Continuing....
- **Alert: Orange Tortrix leafrollers, southern caneberries:** Very small orange tortrix larvae are now being recovered from many raspberry and blackberry fields in SW Washington and Oregon. Growers are advised to monitor closely and treat as needed to prevent major fruit contaminant problems.
- **Alert: Strawberry Crown Moth, southern strawberries:** SCM adults are now being caught in high numbers in many SW Washington strawberry fields. The most effective control application timing is closely tied to this hatch. Fields with populations of SCM should be treated between 10 and 14 days of first emergence and again 10-14 days late (mid-July and again late July).
- **Aphids, blueberries:** Aphid populations continue to increase in many fields.
- **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 and pupae 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: [Alternaria Fruit Rot](#), [Anthracnose Ripe Rot](#), [Botrytis](#), [Mummyberry](#).
- Blueberry virus diseases: [Shock virus](#), [Scorch Virus](#).
- Raspberry and blackberry fungal diseases: [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**

- Pay attention to new plantings of all berries for weeds, water, insects, diseases and nutrient deficiencies.
- Weed control.
- Maintain adequate soil moisture.

### **Blueberries—Harvest ongoing in the south and Eastern Washington.**

- Bird damage management.
- Scout for fruit disease problems (e.g. Mummyberry, Botrytis, Alternaria, Anthracnose) & determine cause.
- 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—Harvest beginning in the south.**

- Scout for potential crop contaminants. Treat as needed.
- Scout for rust and treat as needed.
- Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to confirm.
- Can treat for fruit mold if needed.
- Can apply sulfur for redberry mite control.
- Plan for insect harvest contaminant management.

### **Raspberries—Harvest ongoing in the south.**

- Scout for potential crop contaminants. Treat as needed.
- Scout for fruit disorders (e.g. crumbly fruit, dry cell) and determine cause.
- 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.
- Can treat for fruit mold if needed.
- Plan for insect harvest contaminant management.

## **Strawberries**

### **Harvest wrapping up in the south, ongoing in other regions.**

- 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.
- Scout for Two-Spotted Mites and Cyclamen Mites.
- Watch for weevil notching and plan for weevil management if needed.
- Put out pheromone traps for strawberry crown moth in southern fields.
- After harvest, allow field to lie dormant for 3-4 weeks before mowing, watering and fertilizing.