



September 18, 2008

[Photos of the week](#): Late season Oregon berry crops: Rabbiteye blueberries and evergreen blackberries.

[Small Fruit Cold Storage Report](#)

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

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

Thanks to all of you who responded to the last Update's request for feedback on this publication. It's difficult to evaluate how well these emails accomplish their intended job of getting northwest berry growers the information they can use when they can use it. I guess the main take home message for us on this end is "stay the course, keep it up!"

New online tool for growers: www.berryinnovation.com, an online trade magazine for northwest berry growers, is now officially launched! This has been made possible through the support of the Washington Red Raspberry commission with grant money provided by a Washington State Specialty Crop Grant.

The purpose of this site is to:

- **Connect** growers with the people and companies that can help them evaluate the risk and cost of implementing new types of equipment and technologies onto their farms.
- **Accelerate** the implementation of effective, cost efficient labor saving practices.
- **Moderate** accurate, timely information exchange between growers and their supporting industry suppliers, their public researchers and their processors.

Take a look...

2008 Northwest Raspberry, Blackberry and Strawberry Plant Sales: Compiled by Dr. Pat Moore, the WSU Small Fruit plant breeder, from information voluntarily shared by the wholesale nurseries: [Click here](#). This information is useful for, among other things, looking at cultivar planting trends and seeing how many new plantings are going in in a given year.

Crop Reports

Blueberries

- **British Columbia:** (9/16) This has been a great month for the later season blues. Second pick on Elliotts wrapping up and a third pick to come late next week. If the weather stays as it is we could go into early October. Quality is excellent. Early season worries about poor pollination (it rained the whole time they were in full bloom) and small size just don't seem to have materialized. I expect the Elliot crop to fill in some of the hole made by the poor Bluecrop season, but overall our numbers will still likely be off considerably. Still some machining of the Bluecrop remnants going on.
- **Northern Washington, Mt Vernon:** (9/16) Machine picking the last of the Bluecrop and Toro for a clean-up pick. The second pick on organic Elliott under row cover is about 10 days out. Will pick the second round on conventional covered Elliott tomorrow. Just finishing up our compost/sawdust/sulfur applications on organic blues.
- **Northern Washington, Lynden:** (9/15) Excellent weather continues in the north. Near perfect days for two weeks now. Getting small little blues like everyone else. Crop still coming but very slow and cannot last much longer. The sunny days have been helping but longer photoperiod still needed. Duke foliage is starting to turn red.

Blackberries

- **Northern Washington, Mt Vernon:** (9/16) Chester blackberries are ramping up slowly, about two weeks behind their usual ripening time. We're very concerned about frost before we can get all the fruit in tunnels off this fall.
- **Oregon, Processed:** (9/16) We are still harvesting evergreens. The hot weather has reduced the size but also kept mold to a minimum so getting some pretty good puree, berries are too beat up and small for IQF. The heat has also ripened things a little faster so should not be harvesting into October.

Upcoming meetings:

- **September 18 —Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission meeting** ~ 5:30 pm. Langdon Farms Golf Club- Aurora, OR. [Email](#) for more information: 541-758-4043.
- **September 23 —Oregon Blueberry Commission meeting**~ 12 pm. West Salem Roth's IGA Doaks Ferry Meeting Room- Salem, OR. For more information: 503-370-3790.
- **New Information: December 8 & 9 — The North American Raspberry & Blackberry conference** in association with the Great Lakes Fruit & Vegetable Expo~ Grand Rapids, Michigan. [Click here](#) for more information.

Commission News

- **Washington Red Raspberry Commission sets research priorities for the coming year:** [Click here](#) for the new priority list. Changes include moving "**Soil fumigation techniques and alternatives**" into the top tier due to the latest proposed regulatory restriction as well as the absence of any proven nematode control materials.

Industry News

- **Chilean raspberry industry poised for growth:** [Click here](#) for this 9/17 *Santiago Times* article.
- **Wet summer weather boosts Maine's wild blueberry crop:** [Click here](#) for this 9/4 article in the *Bangor News*.
- **Blueberry rakes:** [Click here](#) for another *Bangor News* story about the rakes used for harvesting wild blueberries.
- **Adare develops first fully recyclable fruit punnet (clamshell):** [Click here](#)
- **Study identifies best colorants from blueberries:** [Click here](#) for this 9/9 article on *Foodnavigator.com*.

Regional Updates

- **Michigan State Fruit Crop Alert:** [Click here](#) for the September 16th issue.

New Pest Information

- **[Blackberry Rust](#), evergreen blackberries:** From OSU plant pathologist, **Ken Johnson**, "The rains two weeks ago were timed extremely well to get the rust going on the fall spurt of new leaf growth. This is exactly the time (Sept 10 to 15) that a fall spray of Rally would be helpful (for those who think they have enough rust out there to make it worthwhile)."
- **[Phytophthora Root Rot](#), raspberries:** From Whatcom county Extension, **Colleen Burrows**, "This is a good time for raspberry growers to sample for Phytophthora if they suspect it." **Free testing for Phytophthora Root Rot** is available for Washington raspberry growers through a project funded by the Washington Red Raspberry Commission and Whatcom County IPM. Samples are collected by Colleen Burrows (cburrows@wsu.edu, 360-676-6736) in Whatcom County and by Peerbolt Crop Management (tom@peerbolt.com) in the south.
- **[Voles](#):** We're again seeing some heavily infested blueberry and caneberry fields. Vole populations seem to be increasing pretty rapidly. [Click here](#) for some background and biology information on voles (or meadow mice). [Click here](#) for information on how to construct bait stations.

On-going Pest Information

Insects

- **[Blueberry Gall Midge](#), blueberries.**
- **[Aphids](#), blueberries.**
- **[Aphids](#), northern raspberries.**
- **[Two-spotted Mites](#), [Raspberries](#).**
- **[Weevils](#), strawberries, blueberries:** For more weevil information, click on these links: [Rough Strawberry Root Weevil](#), [Black Vine Root Weevils](#), [Strawberry Root Weevils](#).

Diseases

- **[Botrytis Fruit Mold](#), late ripening blackberries.**
- **[Alternaria Fruit Rot](#), blueberries.**
- **[Cane Botrytis](#), northern raspberries.**
- **[Redberry Mites](#), late ripening blackberries.**
- **Other blueberry fungal diseases:** [Anthracnose Ripe Rot](#), [Botrytis](#).
- **Blueberry virus diseases:** [Shock Virus](#), [Scorch Virus](#).
- **Other raspberry and blackberry fungal diseases:** [Yellow Rust](#), [Cane and Leaf Rust](#), [Purple Blotch](#).
- **Raspberry and blackberry virus diseases:** Raspberry Bushy Dwarf Virus, [raspberries](#), [Marionberries](#).

Cropwork

Caneberries and blueberries: Nutrient testing is recommended immediately post-harvest. (See above)

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.

- Bird damage management.
- Scout for fruit disease problems (e.g. Mummyberry, Botrytis, Alternaria, Anthracnose).
- 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.

Blackberries—Harvest ongoing in the south.

- Scout for potential crop contaminants. Treat as needed.
- Can treat for fruit mold if needed.
- Scout for redberry mite damage.
- Scout for fruit disorders (e.g. crumbly fruit, dry cell) and determine cause.

Raspberries—Harvest finished except for primocane fruiting cultivars.

- Can treat for cane botrytis.
- Scout for mites and treat as needed.
- Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to confirm.

Strawberries—Processed harvest finished.

- Check weak areas for root weevil larvae, strawberry crown borers and/or root disease problems.
- Watch for weevil notching and plan for weevil management as needed.