



September 3, 2008

[Photos of the week](#): Cane Botrytis in raspberries (left). Blackberry Rust in evergreen blackberries (right).

[Small Fruit Cold Storage Report](#)

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

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

This very unusual harvest season is wrapping up. From the latest harvest starting dates in memory to record high prices for raspberries and, from what I hear, a very successful International Vaccinium Symposium in Corvallis. Here's to a nice, boring, profitable season next year.

It's time to show some appreciation for the people and organizations that support this weekly Update service for the northwest berry crops industry:

- **Thanks** to all who take time to share information with us. We send out a weekly request for information to numerous individuals in both the public and private sectors and their willingness to share is what makes this possible.
- **Thanks** also to all of the **northwest small fruit commissions** and **councils** listed above who provide the funds.
- **Thanks** to all the **growers**. This is a service that ultimately all of you are paying for with your assessment money.

We'll be sending out the Updates more sporadically from now on.

Does this Update work for you?

- Any ideas on what we can do to improve? What do you need? We want feedback!
- [Click here](#) to email or call 503-289-7287.
- Just need to say, "Good job" ...Or, maybe, "Please, stop sending these to me!"

Crop Reports

Blueberries

- **British Columbia:** (9/2) Terrible weather on Aug 28-29 brought heavy rain (I thought for a minute it was November), and knocked off a lot of Bluecrop and Elliot. Splits, rot, bad tempers you name it. Not a good way to be ending the main crop season. Our numbers are sure to be down. Cool evenings now and mild days are going to make ripening these Elliots a challenge. Getting into the post-harvest cleanup sprays and foliar nutrient applications this week.
- **Northern Washington, Mt Vernon:** (9/1). Rain has been killing us. Lot's of splits, no ripening, cool weather slowing progress, pickers wanting to leave. Elliots are very slow to come along. Hopefully, we have the weather and the crew to get it picked. So far rot and mold have been minimal.
- **Northern Washington, Lynden:** (9/2) Whatcom county had the wettest, coolest weather anyone can ever remember for the end of August last week. Lots of splits and dropped fruit in the blueberries will surely lower our crop estimate. Hunting season (bow) started yesterday, good time to start culling deer from your strawberry and blueberry fields.
- **Oregon/SW Washington:** (9/3) Quality has really suffered. Splits in the Elliots as well as a lack of sizing is taking a big bite out of the crop. We're hoping the third pick will return to some quality fruit. Not as much splitting seen in some of the other late season cultivars. Rabbiteye are starting to pick for fresh market.

Blackberries, Oregon: (9/3)

- **Processed:** Evergreens are coming in. Probably about halfway through the crop at this point. Most growers are reporting minimal mold issues. Fruit quality and size have been good.
- **Fresh Market:** Chesters are coming in with good quality. Some Navahos are also making grade.

Raspberries/Strawberries—all regions

- Raspberries and strawberries are benefiting from the extra moisture and good growing conditions as they develop fruit buds for next year.

Upcoming meetings:

- **September 9 —Oregon Strawberry Commission**~ 6 pm. Roths West Salem, OR. [Email](#) or call 541-758-4043.
- **September 11 —Washington Red Raspberry Commission meeting**~ 1 pm - 5 pm. WSU Mt. Vernon Research Station, Olsen House. The meeting agenda will include establishing research priorities for 2009 and will include a review of the raspberry marketing plan. [Email](#) or call Henry Bierlink for more information 360-354-8767.
- **September 18 —Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission meeting** ~ 5:30 pm. Langdon Farms Golf Club- Aurora, OR. [Email](#) for more information: 541-758-4043.

Industry News

- **Black Raspberries slow cancer by altering hundreds of genes:** [Click here](#) for this August 26th press release from the Ohio State University Medical Center.
- **Antioxidant-rich diet may protect against eye disease:** [Click here](#) for this September 3rd article on *Health Day* that highlights blueberries.
- **Pear growers working to stay ahead of competition:** [Click here](#) for this September 2nd article on *Oregonlive.com*. Some interesting ideas from the pear industry on changing practices to meet labor/efficiency challenges.
- **Fruitmasters testing ozone for controlling mold and bacteria on stored berries:** [Click here](#) for this September 3rd article on *Freshplaza.com*.
- **American blueberries from Serbia to Europe:** [Click here](#) for this September 3rd article on *Emportal*. Another overseas project from the USAID Agribusiness Project. Good to know our government is helping blueberry growers somewhere, isn't it?.

Regional Updates

- **Michigan State Fruit Alert Issue for September 2:** [Click here](#).

New Pest Information

- **Cane Botrytis, northern raspberries:** Weather conditions have produced serious cane botrytis, particularly in Chemainus, which have required additional fungicidal applications.
- **Alternaria Fruit Rot, blueberries:** All regions report an increase in the incidence of alternaria.
- **Aphids, northern raspberries:** Reports of some pretty big aphid populations in untreated primocanes. Lots of upper leaves and growing points were covered and becoming distorted. This could eventually cause growing point death with subsequent branching as lower buds break.
- **Blackberry Rust, evergreen blackberries:** Many evergreen fields are reporting increased rust infections. Most are still at low levels.
- **Botrytis Fruit Mold, late ripening blackberries:** The recent weather has seen increases in fruit mold, mostly in fields that didn't have a fungicide program.

On-going Pest Information

Insects

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

Diseases

- **Cane Blight, raspberries.**
- **Redberry Mites, late ripening blackberries.**
- **Mummyberry, blueberries.**
- **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](#), [Phytophthora Root Rot](#), [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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Scout for aphids and treat as needed.

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.