



May 12, 2009

[You Tube link of the week:](#) Making berry pies at Willamette Valley Fruit Company.

[Photos of the week:](#) The life stages of Black Vine Weevil-one of our most economically damaging insects in strawberries and raspberries, and Azalea Bark Scale- a scale insect now visible in some southern blueberry fields.

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

[Small Fruit Cold Storage Report](#)

[Upcoming Meetings](#)

### **Three-week sign-up period has started for Organic Conversion Program**

- \$50 million of USDA funding is now available for assisting organic growers and growers transitioning to organic production. [Click here](#) for the details. The deadline for applications is May 29.

### **Michigan State Blueberry IPM Resources**

- **Weed management:** [Click here](#) for an excellent Michigan State write-up of **pre-harvest herbicide options**. Great practical information on Callisto, recently labeled for blueberries. Plus a cost analysis/rates covering Aim DF, Fusilade DX 2E, Gramoxone Max, Poast 1.5E, Rely and Roundup Ultra 4L. (**Note:** *Callisto should not be used on berries being exported to Japan. Japan has no tolerance established for this chemical.*)
- **Disease management:** [Click here](#) Rating fungicides for their effectiveness on blueberry diseases.

### **British Columbia Blueberry Council virus testing program**

- From Sonja Ring: "We will be starting up Blueberry Scorch and Blueberry Shock Virus testing in the lab shortly. Symptoms have started to show in the fields, and some of you have already submitted samples. The Council will once again be sponsoring the program. Growers and their representatives will be able to submit up to 10 samples/field, free of charge." ([Click here](#) for the submission form.)
- Collect samples as soon as leaves have fully expanded. Collect about 10 medium-aged, green leaves per plant (1 sample). If the weather is warm, keep your samples cool, and try to collect them in Ziploc-style bags, so that they don't dry out. For more info, contact Sonja at the BC Blueberry Council, (604) 613 2133 [sonjaring@shaw.ca](mailto:sonjaring@shaw.ca)

### **Regional reports**

*These reports are from individuals within the region and are their particular observations. They are included to give an impression of the present 'state of the industry' and regional activities.*

#### **British Columbia, Fraser Valley (5/11/09)**

- **Raspberries:** An excellent week just past for raspberries. Plants have really responded to the warm rain and soil conditions and lateral growth really pushing finally. There is still considerable cold injury showing in Meeker fields, but, overall, I am getting a lot more optimistic about the crop potential. Still a long way to go though. Some Yellow Rust pustules starting to show up. Mites are present but at low levels in most fields. Weevil activity still strong in untreated fields. Baby raspberry fields are way behind so far. Got to be at least a month behind. So there is considerable need for a good growing season to make up for lost time.
- **Blueberries:** Bloom is coming on quickly. Dukes vary from 10-30%, Bluecrop 10-20%. Field to field differences are very evident. A lot of winter injury is now very evident on Dukes, which seem to be the most affected variety. Still, there appears to be a good potential crop. The next 10 days is going to see the bloom peak, so we need the weather to straighten out. So far pollination conditions have been fairly good.

#### **Whatcom County, Northern Washington (5/12/09)**

- **Blueberries:** 3 nice days followed by 4 days of cool rain is not good for pollination. Rekas are in full bloom. Bluejay and Bluecrop are almost full bloom. Dukes are a bit late this year, and 1613's early to full bloom. Bees not all that active, as you might have guessed. Thunderstorms and hail predicted for today... Nice weather is forecast for Friday through the end of May, bring it on!

#### **Skagit County, Northern Washington (5/7/09)**

- **Blueberries:** Of course everything is popping. Today it's wet, it's windy, it's cold. Can't bloom spray, bees won't fly, and Pseudomonas has reared it's ugly head again. I don't know how much more spraying could have been done to prevent it. I'm thinking we need a new program for combating the problem.

#### **Willamette Valley, Oregon and SW Washington (5/12/09)**

- **Blueberries:** We're well into petal fall for Dukes. Elliotts are up to 25 %. The wet, mild weather this past week definitely increased the incidence of Mummyberry infections, but that's just in a few fields. Pretty much look on course for a good crop. Decent pollination windows so far and from this weekend on looks like great bee weather going into the later bloom.
- **Blackberries:** Silvans will get to 10% this week. Marions will have some spotty open bloom this week also. Crop potential will be much more reliably estimated once bloom starts.
- **Raspberries:** Bloom is getting close, but so far very little open flowers. Fields have good color and lateral extension. The way prices look, we could use a few more raspberries and a few less blacks.
- **Strawberries:** Bloom is moving along with fields anywhere from 20-60%. It looks like the Totem harvest in SW Washington will be about a week later than normal with main picks starting around the 10<sup>th</sup> of June give or take a couple days.

#### **Newsletters/Updates**

- **British Columbia Blueberry IPM Newsletter for 5-8-09:** [Click here.](#)
- **New Jersey Blueberry Bulletin for 5-4-09:** [Click here.](#)
- **Michigan State's Fruit Crop Advisory for 5-12-809:** [Click here.](#)
- **Michigan State Blueberry IPM Newsletter for 5-12-09:** [Click here.](#)

#### **Industry news/resources**

- **Gateway to government food safety information:** [Click here](#) for the food safety information clearinghouse site.
- **High-speed broadband critical for farmers:** [Click here](#) (4/15/09, American Farm Bureau)
- **Now that's a big kite:** [Click here](#) (5/5/09, Western Fruit Grower) Slow news week—this is about Kiwi growers in New Zealand looking for shipping alternatives. Kind of a 'back to the future' story—sailing ships.

#### **New Pest Management Information**

##### **Insects**

- **Azalea Bark Scale, blueberries:** This scale's telltale bright white egg sacs on the lower branches of infested plants are becoming apparent in some southern blueberry fields. [Click here](#) for information on Azalea Bark Scale and other scale species.
- **Weevils, strawberries:** In SW Washington and the Willamette Valley, weevil pupae are starting to be recovered. Adult emergence should begin this week. Some overwintering adults, mostly Rough Strawberry, have also been found. For more weevil information, click on these links: [Rough Strawberry Root Weevil](#), [Black Vine Root Weevils](#), [Strawberry Root Weevils](#).

##### **Diseases**

- **Alternaria Fruit Rot, southern blueberries:** As blueberry bloom starts to finish in Oregon and SW Washington, it's time to consider whether you need to prevent Alternaria and Anthracnose problems from showing up in the fruit. Alternaria can infect the fruit beginning at the end of bloom and throughout the fruit development stage, up until harvest. Infections remain latent until the fruit ripens. Infected fruits exhibit a shriveling or caving-in of the side of the berry and can become watery in storage.
- **Anthracnose Ripe Rot, southern blueberries:** If you've had problems with Anthracnose, prevention of a reoccurrence needs to begin at petal fall. Symptoms: First, blighting of shoot tips; then, a few flowers turn brown or black. Leaf spots, when they occur, are large or small and roughly circular. As infected berries ripen, the flower end may soften and pucker. Under warm and rainy conditions, salmon-colored spore masses form on infected berries. After harvest, spore masses form rapidly on infected fruit when in cellophane-covered baskets or in plastic clamshell packs.
- **Unidentified virus-like symptoms, blueberries:** If growers in any growing region observe virus-like symptoms such as blossoms and/or vegetative laterals collapsing and aren't sure what's causing them: In Washington and Oregon, contact [Bob Martin](#) (USDA small fruit virologist) (541) 738-4041 for free testing. In British Columbia, contact [Sonja Ring](#) at 604-613-2133 for details of the Ministry of Ag free testing.

#### **Ongoing Pest Management Information**

##### **Diseases**

- **Disease Alert: Blackberry Rust** (Phragmidium Rust) **evergreen blackberries:** This weather is perfect timing for infections to take place. New infections won't show symptoms for a couple of weeks so that's the time to really be scouting.
- **Disease Alert: Yellow Rust, raspberries:** Yellow Rust in southern raspberries is also at greater risk of increased infection rates.

- **Disease Alert: [Mummyberry](#), blueberries:** Secondary Mummyberry infection sites and wilted vegetative tips, are now being found in blueberry fields in all regions. A fungicide in place on the blossom can prevent this from taking place.
- **Disease Alert: [Pseudomonas \(Bacterial Blight\)](#) blueberries.**
- **[Purple Blotch](#) blackberries.**
- **[Shock Virus](#), southern blueberries.**
- **[Raspberry Bushy Dwarf Virus](#), Marionberries.**
- **[Tomato Ringspot Virus](#), southern raspberries:** The typical light green chevron pattern of this virus is beginning to be picked up on new growth.
- **[Downey Mildew](#), Boysenberries & Kotata blackberries** (occasionally other blackberries).

### **Insects**

- **Insect Alert: [Winter Moth/ Bruce Spanworm](#) blueberries.**
- **Insect Alert: [Aphids/Scorch Virus](#): northern blueberries:** Pre-bloom aphid control is strongly recommended in blueberry fields infected with or in close proximity to fields infected with [Scorch virus](#).
- **[Clay Colored Weevil](#), northern raspberries/blueberries/southern strawberries.**
- **[Blueberry Gall Midge](#), blueberries.**
- **[Twospotted Spider Mites](#): northern raspberries.**
- **[Yellow Mites](#), northern raspberries.**
- **[Aphids](#), strawberries.**

### **Meeting Information**

- **May 12 – IPM Scouting Tools for Blueberry & Raspberry Production, Whatcom County (10AM).** WSU Whatcom County Extension will discuss and demonstrate scouting techniques and current pest issues related to bloom growth stage in blueberry and raspberry production. A pest scouting guide for each crop will be provided. It will be held at Boxx Berry Farm, 6211 Northwest Road, Ferndale, WA. Refreshments will be served. For more information, contact WSU Whatcom County Extension (360) 676-6736.
- **May 13— Oregon Strawberry Commission budget hearing and regular meeting~ 5:30pm and 6pm.** West Salem Roth's, Salem, OR. Call 541-758-4043 or email [Philip Gütt](#) for more information.

### **Cropwork**

#### **All crops**

- Weed control.

#### **Blueberries**

- Can apply Mummyberry control materials and/or take other Mummyberry management actions.
- Can apply Bacterial Blight management materials (e.g. copper, [Serenade](#)).
- Scout for Span Worms/Winter Moth and treat as needed.
- Apply aphid control as needed.
- Scout for scale insects.
- Scout for weevil notching.
- Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to confirm.
- Bring in bees by 10% bloom.
- Can apply fungicide for fruit mold control starting at 10% bloom.

#### **Blackberries**

- Scout for Purple Blotch lesions.
- Burn back primocanes as needed.
- Scout for Phragmidium Rust in Evergreens.
- Can apply phosphite material for Downey Mildew prevention.
- Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to confirm.
- Bring in bees by 10% bloom.
- Can apply fungicide for fruit mold control starting at 10% bloom.
- After petal fall can treat for Alternaria and/or Anthracnose.

#### **Raspberries**

- (Northern areas) Scout for Clay-Colored Weevil.
- Scout for Rust.
- Can apply phosphite material for Root Rot control.
- Can burn back primocanes as needed.
- Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to confirm.
- Bring in bees by 10% bloom.
- Can apply fungicide for fruit mold control starting at 10% bloom.

**Strawberries**

- As plants start growing, check weak areas for Root Weevil larvae, Strawberry Crown Borers and/or root disease problems.
- Till row centers.
- Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to confirm.
- Can apply phosphite material for Root Rot control.
- Can apply a fungicide for fruit mold control at 10% bloom.