



June 16, 2009

[You Tube link of the week:](#) This is a variable rate/mapping sensor technology. It isn't directly shown with berry crops but it's got a lot of potential for field mapping and many other uses.

[Photos of the week:](#) Two photos showing the small size of the leafroller larvae now hatching out in southern caneberry fields.

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

[Cold Storage Report](#)

[Upcoming Meetings](#)

Pest Alert: [Orange Tortrix Leafrollers](#), southern blackberries and raspberries:

- The larval hatch that causes our major crop contaminant problems has been picked up in caneberry fields in SW Washington and Oregon.
- Fields that have been recording high adult pheromone trap counts are at high risk of having larval contaminant problems.
- Control materials containing active ingredients specifically targeted at leafroller larvae such as *Bacillus thuringiensis* and Spinosad are much more effective on these larvae when they're small.

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.

Whatcom County, Northern Washington (6/16/09)

- **Blueberries:** The crop is sizing up very well. Good pollination, nice sizing weather. Some fields are yellowing out, and the soil is on the dry side but it looks like a good crop.
- **Raspberries:** Good fields are looking very good, while those with winter damage will be down some this year. Good quality crop with overall yield speculation from pretty close to last year's to maybe a little larger. As always, depends a lot on the weather between now and harvest.
- **Strawberries:** Harvest started this week.

Willamette Valley, Oregon and SW Washington (6/16/09)

- **Blueberries:** Some areas are reporting some problems with pollination and also overall berry numbers that would balance off some of the speculation about the large crop size. There's still a pretty good consensus that fruit quality and berry size are looking excellent. Harvest of Earliblue and maybe a couple of early Duke fields will start next week around the 24th or 25th. Main Duke harvest will really get going about a week later.
- **Raspberries:** Some Tulameen for fresh market will begin mid next week (~6/25). Some Meekers could be starting right around that time too with the usual variations in the differing valley areas. Crop looks like it also is of excellent quality and it sizing well. We'll have a big part of the crop coming off at the same time but the mild temperatures of the last week have kept bloom coming out. Just not sure how much of this late bloom will result in marketable fruit. Still seems likely to be a short, intense harvest season.
- **Blackberries:**
 - **Processed:** Silvans could be starting harvest as early as June 29th with Marions looking like around July 9th or 10th. Marion fruit size is looking very good in most fields but, as with raspberries, the major harvest is going to be concentrated into probably the second and third picks. The mild weather this week has allowed the weaker laterals to keep putting out blooms—seems like we've been at 85-90% bloom for 10 days. Difficult to say how much of the late bloom will be able to set quality fruit or be harvestable. Depends on the weather... Evergreens are creeping toward 10% bloom.
 - **Fresh:** Obsidian and Metolius will start coming in mid-next week (June 23rd-24th). Fruit quality is looking very good and the forecast is very favorable for the start of harvest.
- **Strawberries:** We're into the middle of the harvest with some of the usual problems starting to be reported. The ripening is pretty concentrated. Some valley growers are having problems with not enough pickers while others say they've got more than enough. Some mold issues with fruit staying too long in the field.

Meeting Information

- **June 22-23—[The International Berry Health Benefits Symposium](#)** ~ Monterey, California. Hosted by the [National Berry Crops Initiative](#), seven North American berry organizations join together to feature the latest research by scientists worldwide on berries and human health.
- **July 8—OSU Caneberry Open House**
 - 1pm. OSU North Willamette Research & Extension Center. Aurora, OR.
 - Sponsored by the [Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission](#).
 - [Click here](#) for the agenda and logistics. Call 503-678-1264 ext. 110 for more information.
- **July 15—OSU Blueberry Field Day** ~ Time 1-5pm. North Willamette Research & Extension Center. Aurora, OR. Due to OSU budget restraints there will be a charge per person to cover costs, payable on site, amount TBA. No pre-registration is needed. Call 503-678-1264 ext. 110 for more information.
- **June 25 – Integrated Pest Management Scouting Tools for Blueberry & Raspberry Production** ~ 10 am. WSU Whatcom County Extension will discuss and demonstrate scouting techniques and current pest issues related to pre-harvest 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.

Newsletters

- **New Jersey Blueberry Bulletin for 6-08-09:** [Click here.](#)
- **Michigan State Blueberry IPM Newsletter for 6-16-09:** [Click here.](#)
- **Michigan State Fruit Crop Advisory for 6-16-09:** [Click here.](#)

Industry news/resources

- **Debate for California lawmakers: Budget or blueberries?:** [Click here](#) (6/15/09, SF Examiner) I vote for blueberries.
- **Heavy rains ruin SE Georgia blueberry, tobacco crops:** [Click here](#) (6/15/09, Jacksonville News)
- **National agricultural labor statistics for spring 2009:** [Click here](#) (6/9/09, MSU CAT Alert)
- **House subcommittee passes food safety bill:** [Click here.](#) (6/15/09, The Packer)
- **More organic blueberries by Italian producers:** [Click here](#) (FreshPlaza.com) Nice pictures.
- **Judge rules that Crunch Berries are not a real fruit:** [Click here](#) (June 4, News 10 Sacramento)

New Pest Management Information

This is shaping up to be an unusual year in that pest pressures overall have been exceptionally light. No major mite, aphid or rust issues have been reported.

Potential new blackberry pest

- **Blackberry Leaf Midge:** [Click here](#) for more detailed information and photos (This information is from Tracy Hueppelsheuser, BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands. This insect is similar in size and potential crop damage to Blueberry Gall Midge in blueberries. Newly hatched larvae feed on new vegetative buds. It hasn't yet been found at economically damaging levels but does have the potential to be a problem.
- **Alert: [Orange Tortrix Leafrollers](#), southern blackberries and raspberries:** See details above.

Ongoing Pest Management Information

Diseases

- **[Blackberry Rust](#)** (Phragmidium Rust), evergreen blackberries.
- **[Yellow Rust](#)**, raspberries.
- **[Alternaria Fruit Rot](#)**, blueberries.
- **[Anthracnose Ripe Rot](#)**, blueberries.
- **[Mummyberry](#)**, blueberries.
- **[Purple Blotch](#)**, blackberries.
- **[Shock Virus](#)**, blueberries.
- **[Scorch Virus](#)**, blueberries.
- **[Raspberry Bushy Dwarf Virus](#)**, Marionberries.

Insects

- **Alert: [Weevils](#), southern strawberries:** Adult emergence of all major weevil species continues. For more weevil information, click on these links: [Rough Strawberry Root Weevil](#), [Black Vine Root Weevils](#), [Strawberry Root Weevils](#) .

- **Alert: Strawberry Crown Moth, southern strawberries and canberries:** Pheromone traps in SW Washington strawberry fields picked up emerging SCM adults. First control treatments should be timed to go on 10-14 days after first consistent trap catches.
- **Blueberry Gall Midge, blueberries.**
- **Raspberry Beetle, northern raspberries.**
- **Twospotted Mites, strawberries.**
- **Azalea Bark Scale, southern blueberries.**
- **Winter Moth/ Bruce Spanworm, blueberries.**
- **Aphids/Scorch Virus, blueberries.**
- **Twospotted Spider Mites, raspberries.**
- **Yellow Mites, northern raspberries.**
- **Aphids, strawberries.**

Cropwork

All Crops: Monitor soil moisture levels and irrigate as needed.

Blueberries

- North--Scout for Span worms/Winter Moth, leafrollers 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.
- Can apply fungicide for fruit mold control until the end of bloom.
- After petal fall can continue to treat for Alternaria and/or Anthracnose.

Blackberries

- Scout for Phragmidium Rust in Evergreens.
- Scout for Cane and Leaf Rust.
- Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to confirm.
- Have bees in by 10% bloom.
- Can apply fungicide for fruit mold control starting at 10% bloom.
- Put out pheromone traps for leafrollers.
- Scout for leafroller larvae.

Raspberries

- Scout for Yellow 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.
- Have bees in by 10% bloom.
- Can apply fungicide for fruit mold control starting at 10% bloom.
- Put out pheromone traps for leafrollers.
- Scout for leafroller larvae.

Strawberries—Harvest ongoing

- 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 leaf notching and plan for Weevil management if needed.
- Put out pheromone traps for Strawberry Crown Moth in southern fields.
- Scout for fruit quality issues such as mold.