



July 14, 2009

[You Tube link of the week:](#) A British Fair Trade Organization's video of a blueberry planting project supporting impoverished farmers in Chile.

[Photos of the week:](#) Ripe Marion blackberries and blackcaps.

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

[Upcoming Meetings](#)

Shock and Scorch viruses have been identified in Michigan blueberry fields. For more information, [Click here](#) for the Michigan State Blueberry IPM Newsletter for 7-14-09.

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

- **Blueberries:** (7/12/09) Duke picking started last week. Sizing is quite variable and disappointing in many cases. This could put a dent in the season production forecast.
- **Raspberries**
 - (7/10/09) We had some fairly significant rainfall that really freshened up the raspberries. Some growers have applied fungicides to stem any possible mold.
 - (7/12/09) Raspberry pick is of really good quality and coming off fairly well even with weather changes from misty rain to heavy heat. Maybe a chance for spot mold to show today after yesterday evening's (July 12) rain and thunderstorms.

Whatcom County, Northern Washington (7/9/09)

- **Blueberries:**
 - (7/9/09) Blueberries coloring and sizing well, harvest still a ways off.
 - (7/14/09) Blues starting harvest within the next few days. Lots of mildew in the fields. Leafroller larvae pretty low right now although there were a lot of moths a few weeks ago so they must be coming soon?
- **Raspberries:**
 - (7/9/09) Raspberries seem to be holding up pretty well after 3 days of gloom and rain. Great quality so far.
 - (7/14/09) Mites pretty evenly dispersed throughout the fields again. 40% are at a level that needs to be sprayed. Mold starting to show now as we get poor weather farther away from clean up spray. Not a lot of fruit coming off right now. Nice weather should fix that.
- **Strawberries:** (7/9/09) Strawberry field renovation and herbicide applications are in progress.

Skagit County, Northern Washington

- **Blueberries:**
 - (7/9/09) Some fresh market Early Blue and Duke will start coming in early next week (7/13-7/15). No processing fruit (we hope) until the 20th. Falcons are doing a great job keeping the birds out of the ripening fruit, big starling flocks haven't arrived yet so we'll see.
 - (7/10/09) Blueberries are ready to go next week, if you are hand picking Duke for fresh. Otherwise, not much ready.
- **Raspberries:**
 - (7/9/09) Raspberries running a high percentage IQF with somewhat dry fruit making grade easily. No real rain here compared to what Whatcom got, enough to settle the dust for a day or two.
 - (7/10/09) Raspberries are having a very compact season. Outstanding second pick, but taking a good chunk of the fruit. Crop to date is very good quality.
- **Strawberries**
 - (7/9/09) Picked the last of the Tillamook and rolled them down to the Plant on Wednesday (7/8), whew!! Very good quality, large strawberry pack helped the Plant run very efficiently this season. Nobody wants Red Crest anymore?

Eastern Washington (7/10/09)

- **Blueberries:** Eastern Washington is 75% of the way through picking Duke, the most common variety. Overall, the Eastern Washington crop is about 50% harvested. Elliotts will start around the first week of August. Weather conditions have been near perfect. Negligible pest problems, if you don't count birds. Yields are average to slight above average. There are significantly more acres being picked this year as compared to last year. The quality of the fruit is extremely good.

Willamette Valley, Oregon and SW Washington

- **Blueberries:**
 - (7/13/09) Dukes are still coming in but getting near the end. Bluecrop are just beginning as are Draper. Some Brigittas will start near the end of this week. Quantities coming from many fields seem to be below expectations but it's tough to speculate on overall yields at this point. Quality remains very good.
 - (7/14/09) We will be doing our last pick of Duke this week and starting Bluegold, Bluecrop, and Bluejay. Legacy and Liberty are sizing nicely and may do our first, light pick for fresh market next week. Quality looks very good.
 - (7/14/09) We're into the second pick of Duke with both hand and machine harvest going. Bluecrop just started today. Brigitta and Bluegold will start this weekend. Great quality coming in.
- **Raspberries (7/13/09)**
 - **Processed:** Harvest is now past half way with some mold showing up after a rainy day on Sunday. The weather is shifting to warm and dry quickly so it shouldn't build into a problem. Yields are down on a number of fields while quality is still pretty good.
- **Blackcaps:** The last picks will be completed over the next few days.
- **Blackberries**
 - **Processed:** (7/13/09) Marionberries are coming in hot and heavy. Hard to find available crates as all the processors are pretty much at capacity. Most of the crop will be in within the next couple of weeks. Quality is very good with no mold problems as of now but some leafroller larval contaminant issues. Boysens, Kotatas and Black Diamond are also coming in with great quality.
 - **Fresh:** (7/14/09) The rain over the weekend slowed things down. Obsidian is finishing up with good quality fruit coming in.

Industry news/resources

US/Canada

- **(B.C.) Kind of Blue:** [Click here](#) (7/09 BC Business) A nice perspective on 'the blueberry problem'.
- (Washington State) **Dry June has Whatcom County raspberry farmers optimistic about harvest:** [Click here](#) (7/14/09 The Bellingham Herald)
- **Fertilizer shares drop as prices plunge:** [Click here](#) (7/13/09 Globe and Mail) Potash could become affordable again...
- **Blueberry prices keep sliding:** [Click here](#) (7/9/09 The Capital Press)
- **Plums beat blueberries in nutritional value:** [Click here](#) (7/13/09 FreshPlaza.com) This 'news' story just came out—Here's the more complete story that came out in January--**Plums poised to give blueberries run for the money:** [Click here](#) (1/28/09 AgriLife Research-Texas A &M).
- (Washington State) **Blueberry harvest set to beat last year's crop:** [Click here](#) (7/11/09 The Olympian)
- **New Food Safety Plan includes industry recommendations:** [Click here](#) (7/8/09 GrowingProduce.com)

International

- **(Serbia) Serbia Raspberry Producers on Strike:** [Click here](#) (6/30/09 BalkanInsight.com)

Berry Innovation:

Click on the above link to go to berryinnovation.com, an online trade magazine for the northwest berry industry.

- **(Italy) Isap Packaging launches two new punnets-ideal for small fruits:** [Click here](#) (7/8/09 FreshPlaza.com)
- **(US) Modifications to the Caterpillar 939C for agricultural applications:** [Click here](#) (7/9/09 FreshPlaza.com)
- **(US-Video) Vineyard pruning and shoot stripper:** [Click here.](#)
- **(US) Fruit company provides glimpse of freeze-drying process:** [Click here](#) (7/13/09 Pantagraph.com-Illinois)

Field Day Information

- **July 15—OSU Blueberry Field Day** ~Time 1-5pm. North Willamette Research & Extension Center. Aurora, OR. [Click here](#) for the agenda and logistics. Due to OSU budget restraints there will be a \$20 charge per person to cover costs, payable on site. No pre-registration is needed. Call 503-678-1264 ext. 110 for more information.
- **July 16—Raspberry Machine Harvesting Field Day** ~Sakuma Bros, Burlington, WA 1:00pm to 2:30pm. This will be the first summer that this planting will be harvested. There are 100 different raspberries in this planting: 58 WSU selections, 36 BC selections, 5 cultivars and 1 ORUS selection. For information/directions contact Pat Moore, WSU Raspberry and Strawberry Breeder, 253-445-4525 moorepp@wsu.edu

- **July 16—Berry growers' field day at WSU-Mount Vernon** ~ 2:45pm (following Pat Moore's Raspberry Mechanical Harvesting Field day at Sakuma Bros). Meet at the Olsen House raspberry field. We'll cover raspberry and blueberry varieties, entomology, strawberry production in tunnels, fumigation and alternatives to fumigation. The informal presentations and open house will be done around 4:30. For directions, [click here](#), more information call 360-848-6120 or email Tom, [click here](#).
- **July 21—Raspberry Machine Harvesting Field Day** ~The Randy Honcoop Farm, Lynden, WA 11:00am-1:00pm. This planting was harvested for the first time in 2008 and several of the selections appeared very promising. For information/directions contact Pat Moore, WSU Raspberry and Strawberry Breeder, 253-445-4525 moorepp@wsu.edu

Newsletters

- **New Jersey Blueberry Bulletin for 7-6-09:** [Click here](#). Interesting comments on boron deficiency symptoms in ripe fruit.
- **Michigan State Blueberry IPM Newsletter for 7-14-09:** [Click here](#).
- **Michigan State Fruit Crop Advisory for 7-14-09:** [Click here](#).

Diagnostic Labs

(Don't guess, get it tested...)

- **WSU Plant and Insect diagnostic lab's website:** [Click here](#).
- **OSU Plant Clinic's website and information:** [Click here](#).
- **List of public and private analytical labs and consultants serving Agriculture in the PNW:** [Click here](#).

New Pest Management Information

- **Alert: Botrytis Fruit Rot, northern raspberries, southern blackberries:** There's a lot of ripe fruit in the fields and many areas have been going through periods with long periods of leaf/fruit wetness and warm temperatures. These conditions create a high risk of fruit mold. Applications of fungicides between picks may be needed.
- **Alert: Orange Tortrix Leafrollers, southern blackberries and raspberries:** Very small, first instar larvae have been found this week indicating that there's an ongoing hatch. Monitor fruit closely even if you've treated since a new hatch can show up after the initial insecticide treatment.

Ongoing Pest Management Information

Birds, blueberries.

Diseases

- **Caution: Blackberry Rust** (Phragmidium Rust), **evergreen blackberries**. There's still a fair amount of new infections in some fields but most have been treated with Rally if rust was found.
- **Raspberry Bushy Dwarf Virus**, Marionberries.
- **Alternaria Fruit Rot**, blueberries. **Anthraxnose Ripe Rot**, blueberries. **Mummyberry**, blueberries. **Shock Virus**, blueberries. **Aphids/Scorch Virus**, blueberries.
- **Phytophthora Root Rot**, raspberries. **Raspberry Bushy Dwarf Virus**, northern raspberries. **Yellow Rust**, raspberries.

Insects/Mites

- **Weevils**, strawberries, raspberries, blueberries: For more weevil information, click on these links: [Rough Strawberry Root Weevil](#), [Black Vine Root Weevils](#), [Strawberry Root Weevils](#).
- **Strawberry Crown Moth**, [southern strawberries](#) and [caneberries](#): SCM adult emergence has peaked and trap counts are now declining.
- **Blueberry Gall Midge**, blueberries. **Aphids/Scorch Virus**, blueberries. **Twospotted Spider Mites**, raspberries. **Yellow Mites**, northern raspberries. **Raspberry Beetle**, northern raspberries.
- **Aphids**, strawberries.

Cropwork

All crops: Monitor soil moisture and irrigate as needed.

Blueberries—Harvest ongoing.

- North--Scout for leafrollers and treat as needed.
- Maintain bird damage management.
- Apply aphid control as needed.
- Scout for weevil notching.
- Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to confirm.
- After petal fall can continue to treat for Alternaria and/or Anthracnose.
- Scout for ripe fruit fungal diseases.

Blackberries—Harvest beginning in Oregon

- Scout for Phragmidium Rust in Evergreens.
- Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to confirm.
- Can apply insecticide pre-harvest for insect crop contaminants.
- Can apply fungicide for fruit mold control.
- Scout for insect crop contaminants.
- Scout for ripe fruit fungal diseases.

Raspberries—Harvest ongoing

- Scout for mites and treat as needed.
- Scout for aphids.
- Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to confirm.
- Can apply insecticide for insect crop contaminants.
- Can apply fungicide for fruit mold control.
- Scout for insect crop contaminants.
- Scout for ripe fruit fungal diseases.

Strawberries—Processed harvest finished