



July 21, 2009

You Tube links of the week--BEI Mechanical Harvester videos:

- [Click here](#) for their new 2010 Rotary head Harvester.
- [Click here](#) for their Centipede Scale catcher system. [Click here](#) for the system on a Littau harvester.
- [Click here](#) for their harvester on a 24" track (instead of tires). [Click here](#) for the tracks used in muddy conditions.
- [Click here](#) for their pull behind (a tractor) harvester.

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

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

[Upcoming Meetings](#)

Alert: Evapotranspiration (water loss) rates for later this week are forecast to be the highest so far this year. Monitor soil moisture closely maintaining adequate levels to minimize stress impact on the crop at this vulnerable stage.

The coming heat wave, if it happens as forecast, could be a major turning point this season.

- **Willamette Valley** forecasts for Saturday through Monday are near 95 degrees (35 C) with 100 degrees (38 C) possible for a couple of those days.
- **Whatcom County and the Fraser Valley:** Temperatures could be as high as the mid 90s (~35 C).
- **Marionberry, Kotata and Black Diamond blackberries** are into their later picks which were going to be light to begin with. The heat could pretty much curtail them, leading to disappointing overall yields.
- **Raspberries** are ending in the South and are in the middle of harvest in the North where they could be seriously impacted.
- **Blueberry crops** in both north and south will be affected to greater or lesser degrees with lower quality, berry size and reduced yields depending on variety, water stress and crop stage.

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:** (7/20) Dukes are close to completing a first hand pick. Smaller than optimal size still an issue. Some Bluecrop could start hand pick this week. Machining of the Dukes also a probable for this week. The forecasted high heat (mid 30's C/mid 90's F) could really cause some fruit quality issues here if it comes on as intensely as predicted
- **Raspberries:** (7/20) Raspberry pick peaked on July 16, 17 with good volumes and quality so far after picking through some mold earlier in the week. The forecasted high temps for this week could threaten the rest of the crop though if it gets as hot as forecasted. Some higher levels of spider mites starting to build in a number of fields as well.

Whatcom County, Northern Washington

- **Blueberries:** (7/16) Blueberries sizing and ripening, growing bushes make the fruit seem pretty sparse on some bushes.
- **Raspberries:** (7/16) Picking through some mold but overall yields and quality still looking good.

Willamette Valley, Oregon and SW Washington

- **Blueberries:** (7/21) Duke are done with their second pick with some fields going into a third. Bluecrop started about 3 or 4 days ago. Brigitta, Bluegold, and even Legacy will be starting tomorrow. Some growers are moving up the harvest date a little to get as much in before the late week heat comes on. Many are looking at using overhead irrigation to minimize heat effects on the fruit.
- **Raspberries** (7/21) Crop is finishing up with very good overall quality. Yields were not great but probably close to average in most fields. The warm temperatures took some of the size and firmness away.
- **Blackberries** (7/21)

- **Marion blackberries:** The crop is probably about 75% in with the two first, heavy picks finished and growers going into the much lighter third pick. Usually we get a fourth pick but with the concentrated ripening plus the heat affecting what later ripening fruit there was, there just won't be much coming after this week. Yields are disappointing and not going to live up to expectations. Fruit size and quality are dropping off fast. Still no real grower price set so it's looking like both a short crop and a probable short grower price.
- **Evergreens:** Bloom is done. The fruit set looks great. With a short Marion crop...maybe someone might want some Evergreens?

Updated Oregon Berry Crop Statistics

- **National Ag Statistics Service (NASS) latest Oregon Berry Crops Stats (revised 7-10-09):** [Click here](#). These figures are based on voluntary grower responses to mailed surveys.

July 5, 1880 Raspberry and Blackberry New York Times Crop Report:

- [Click here](#). This is a contribution from one of our readers. It's amazing how similar in some ways this 1880 report is to present day reports. Don't know anyone growing Antwerp variety raspberries though.

Industry news/resources

US/Canada

- (Maine) **Wild blueberry industry refocuses marketing:** [Click here](#) (7/16, Bangor Daily News)
- (California) **California mulls controversial alternative to methyl bromide; some scientists protest, saying chemical is too toxic:** [Click here](#) (7/16, Santa Cruz Sentinel)
- (New Jersey) **Blueberry farmers fight hunger one pint at a time:** [Click here](#) (7/14, NBC40.net)
- **USDA to purchase up to \$14.7 million cultivated blueberry products:** [Click here](#) (7/16, USDA Press Release)
- (Tennessee) **Walmart grows ties with local farmers:** [Click here](#) (7/17 The Tennessean)
- (Nova Scotia) **New bigger variety of strawberry extends season:** [Click here](#) (7/17, The Chronicle Herald)
- **Corvallis farmers turn waste into watts:** (7/20, Capital Press) Stahlbush Island Farms has installed a biogas plant on their farms. [Story is linked from the home page of Berry Innovation News](#) an online trade magazine for the northwest berry industry.

Newsletters

- **British Columbia Blueberry Commission IPM Newsletter for 7-2-09:** [Click here](#).
- **New Jersey Blueberry Bulletin for 7-13-09:** [Click here](#). Some good information on water needs.

New Pest Management Information

- **Another new potential pest identified in California:** [Click here](#) "Spotted Wing Drosophila" (*Drosophila suzukii*). [Click here](#) for more information from Mark Bolda, UC Extension.
- **Light Brown Apple Moth:** This potential strawberry and caneberry pest has not yet been found in the Northwest. A pheromone lure for LBAM is available. We're now monitoring a number of caneberry fields in the Willamette Valley for the moth. [Click here](#) for more information from Mark Bolda, UC Extension and scroll down to July 4 entry.
- **"Funky Spot", A New Blueberry Disease identified in the Southeastern U.S.** (*Comments from Dr. R. Martin, USDA small fruit virologist*)
 - If you see these symptoms in your field, please contact Bob Martin at the USDA-ARS Horticulture Crops Research Laboratory (541)-738-4041.
 - Necrotic rings on upper and lower surface of leaves.
 - No fungal structures observed in affected leaves and not able to isolate fungi from leaves.
 - Double stranded RNA was isolated from symptomatic leaves suggesting a virus.
 - Disease can progress to complete defoliation.
 - Symptoms observed in North and South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi and Arkansas and it spreads quickly.
 - Causal agent, vector, host range, favorable environmental conditions and control measures are all unknown at this time.
 - The symptoms shown are in the cultivar 'Star', which has the most dramatic symptoms. In other cultivars symptoms are less dramatic.
 - This disease appears pretty nasty; so, we want to find it as soon as possible.
- **Blueberry Fruit Drop, blueberries:** this suspected virus disease has been identified primarily in B.C. To quote for their recent newsletter, "Symptoms have only been seen in 'Bluecrop' variety fields so watch for individual plants or groups of plants that stand taller than surrounding, healthy plants while you are working in 'Bluecrop' fields. These plants appear taller because they have dropped all their fruit. Dropped fruit may or may not be obvious on the ground at this time, because it was dropped several weeks ago at this point. Any fruit that has been retained on infected bushes after dropping often appears mis-shapen."

- **Caution: [Orange Tortrix Leafrollers](#), southern blackberries and raspberries:** Reports of leafroller larvae have tailed off this past week but growers should continue to closely monitor the harvest fruit for their presence.

Ongoing Pest Management Information

Birds, blueberries.

Diseases

- [Blackberry Rust](#) (Phragmidium Rust), evergreen blackberries..
- [Raspberry Bushy Dwarf Virus](#), Marionberries.
- [Alternaria Fruit Rot](#), blueberries. [Anthracnose 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](#), [Blueberry Gall Midge](#), blueberries. [Aphids/Scorch Virus](#), blueberries. [Twospotted Spider Mites](#), raspberries. [Yellow Mites](#), northern raspberries.
- [Aphids](#), strawberries.

Cropwork

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.

- Maintain bird damage management.
- Scout for weevil notching.
- Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to confirm.
- 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.
- Scout for insect crop contaminants.
- Scout for ripe fruit fungal diseases.
- Can apply insecticide for insect crop contaminants.
- Can apply fungicide for fruit mold control.

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

- 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.
- After harvest, allow field to lie dormant for 2-4 weeks before mowing, watering and fertilizing.
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