

Small Fruit Update



June 20, 2006

[Event Calendar](#) [Small Fruit Cold Storage Reports](#) [Weather Forecast](#) by Rufus La Lone

Deadlines and details on the USDA offer for the purchase of frozen red seedless raspberry puree: Offers are due 1:00 p.m. (CT), July 3. For 28 lb. Pails, [Click here](#). For 6/5.75 lb. Containers, [Click here](#).

Web link of the Week: Catherine Daniels of WSU Extension has compiled a **listing of analytical labs, public and private**, in the Northwest. [Click here](#) for the 13 page PDF version of the listing.

OSU Caneberry Open House: Recent research information on caneberry irrigation, alternative production systems for caneberries, cold hardiness factors in Marionberries and primocane fruiting blackberry varieties as well as the ever popular, Joe DeFrancesco pesticide update and Chad Finn tour of the caneberry breeding plots. All that and ice cream too! Starts at 2 PM, Thursday, June 29. [North Willamette Research and Extension Center](#) in Aurora. Contact [Dr. Bernadine Strik](#) at 541-737-5434 for information.

Crop Updates:

Forecast is for dry and warmer this week. Getting hot in the south (highs 85-95 Saturday-Tuesday).

Oregon blackberries: Marion, Silvan, and Boysen fruit set is good. Size looks like it'll compensate a bit for winter injury losses – still early for estimates, but even weak hills, with injured fruiting canes, are showing good fruit size potential. Definitely larger/heavier berries than the 2005 crop. Nice weather this week for the black fields, especially the weaker ones. On the fresh market side, Obsidian, Metiolus and Siskiyou have started harvest with very good quality.

Oregon black raspberries (blackcaps): Harvest will start later this week. Fruit set and quality look very good. Total crop yield will be up over last year.

Whatcom County raspberries: Getting some good weather breaks, drying out and warming up. Raspberries ripening fast, some of the advanced Willamettes will start this week, some Meekers by next week others are still a couple of weeks away. The mild weather has allowed lateral length to recover. The thick canopy in the younger fields is causing the usual mold problems already but the potential for better fruit quality has definitely improved.

British Columbia raspberries: Quite a bit of red fruit development the last few days but still considerable variation from field to field. The first pick could have some problems with both crumbles and firmness in mature fields. The bloom this year has been unusual and at first it looked like there would be a lag between the first ripe fruit and the main crop. But forecasted hot weather next week could really speed up ripening and shorten this interval. First year plantings look good with generally good quality fruit.

Skagit County raspberries: Raspberry harvest will be right on top of the strawberries with only a week difference. That makes it tough for harvest crews and the processing plant. So far we're having good luck with the rot and mold in both crops.

Oregon/SW Washington raspberries: Meekers started machine harvest last Friday. Willamettes and Coho are also picking. Quality has been quite good with no major mold problems although the fruit is a little soft. Fields south of Salem, on Sauvie Island and in SW Washington all started at the same time when usually there's at least a week's difference. The first fruit came off surprisingly heavy given the cool weather. Fruit is holding well on the canes but we've got a few days of sunny, mid 80's coming. Hopefully, not much hotter or it could impact the crop, especially the older, weaker fields. Commercial fresh harvest of Chemainus has started with Tulameen coming later this week.

British Columbia blueberries: Continued warm, moist weather has been ideal for fungal growth in all the berry crops right now. Warmer and drier weather is forecast for the next week. Fruit continues to size but not as quickly as anticipated. We really need some good sunny days to improve the crop. Dukes and Reka are colouring. Warm weather could allow for some hand harvesting before the end of the month. Vegetative growth in most mature fields has been very strong due to the abundance of moisture and may actually be competing with the fruit fill process. New plantings are quite strong with the moist soil conditions. Some areas, especially in the Langley area and some areas north of the river, were hit hard with hail early this week. Lots of shredded leaves and dropped or pock marked berries.

Skagit County blueberries: The blueberry tip blight problem seems to have stopped spreading, but much damage has been done. Yields will be down on most varieties, with Elliot and Ruebel being the worst.

Whatcom County blueberries: Tip blight on the blueberries looks like it has stopped marching down the stem. For such a good pollination period, there seems to have been a fair amount of green fruit drop. Could be related to the blight and frosts earlier. Blueberries are showing some green fruit rot, likely due to long spray intervals and unfavorable weather conditions. Can certainly use the warmer, dry weather being forecast for the next week.

Oregon blueberries: Commercial fresh market Earliblues have begun harvest in the Willamette Valley. Some Dukes will start this Friday. Quality is good although overall fruit size is just average. Field to field, ripening is more variable than usual.

Whatcom County strawberries: Commercial strawberry harvest started last Saturday, with good quality.

Skagit County strawberries: Strawberries have been just hanging on, not wanting to ripen. Harvest has been pushed back with the Totem being toward the end of the week. A few rot signs in Redcrest (usual for RC, and not a major problem as it doesn't spread as bad in RC) and Hood. Again, not that uncommon for Hood. Everything else looks remarkably good.

Oregon/SW Washington strawberries: Good weather, good crop, good price...and just not enough labor to get it out of the field. Mold problems in under-picked, over-ripe fields. Some size problems as we have gotten past the first pick. But, in general, a frustrating harvest season for most growers.

New pest Information

Insects/Mites

- 1) **Mites, northern raspberries:** Starting to be prevalent in most fields at low numbers with a high amount of predator species as well.
- 2) **Black Vine Weevils, B.C. blueberries, raspberries:** Just about at peak numbers in affected fields.
- 3) **Aphids, B.C. blueberries:** Initial aphid control measures (Admire) appear to have really done a good job in treated fields. Hot weather in the next week may see an increase in aphid activity so re-sprays may be necessary before harvest.
- 4) **Orange Tortrix Leafrollers, southern caneberries:** This year's larval hatch is proving to be stretched out making control more difficult. Larvae numbers continue to increase in many fields and pose a significant threat as a potential harvest contaminant.
- 5) **Weevils: strawberries:** **Black Vine, Strawberry** and **Rough Strawberry** adults are present in many fields in all regions and continue to emerge. Many SW Washington fields were treated for control this last week.
- 6) **Strawberry Crown Moth, southern strawberries and caneberries.** High trap counts of emerging adults have been picked up in SW Washington strawberry fields this past week and treatments are now going on.

Diseases

- 1) **Yellow Rust, raspberries:** Rust has almost completely abated and is only at trace levels right now.
- 2) **Blueberry Fruit Drop Syndrome:** Symptoms are showing up in known affected fields in British Columbia this week. Plants will spontaneously drop virtually their entire fruit load. This will be specific plants only in a field, as opposed to a general fruit drop in a field, which may be due to inadequate pollination or fruit rot. Very few berries remain on the bushes, and these will be small compared to berries on neighbouring, healthy bushes.
- 3) **Blueberry Shock virus** and **Scorch virus, B.C blueberries:** Symptoms are still showing up. Some plants with Shock that were affected early are already recovering. Scorch and Shock symptoms can be confused sometimes with Canker flagging or Bacterial Blight (*Pseudomonas*). Test to make sure what is causing the problem (see web link of the week above for lab listings).
- 4) **Alternaria Fruit Rot,** northern blueberries: *Alternaria* is present in trace amounts.
- 5) **Bacterial Blight (*Pseudomonas*), blueberries:** Symptoms are still present in many fields. [Click here](#) for recent photos of typical symptoms. **Recommendations/comments** from the [OSU Online Guide to Plant Disease Control](#): "Spray twice, first before fall rains, preferably the first week in October, and again 4 weeks later. Several spring applications are recommended in British Columbia, starting at budbreak and using the lower rates of copper. Bacteria resistant to copper products have been detected frequently in many ornamental nurseries in the Willamette Valley and blueberry fields in BC."

Ongoing Pest Information (Click on underlined blue name for information, photos and control options.)

Insects/Mites

- 1) **Unidentified Scale Species,** blueberries. [Click here](#) for a 2-page PDF file of information and photos.
- 2) **Obliquebanded Leafrollers,** northern blueberries.
- 3) **Aphids,** strawberries.
- 4) **Raspberry beetle:** northern raspberries.

Diseases

- 1) **Phragmidium Rust,** Evergreen blackberries.
- 2) **Mummyberry,** blueberries.
- 3) **Raspberry Bushy Dwarf Virus,** Marionberries.
- 4) **Botrytis,** blueberries.
- 5) **Botrytis,** strawberries.
- 6) **Anthraxnose Ripe Rot,** blueberries.
- 7) **Cane and Leaf Rust,** blackberries.

Cropwork:

All Caneberries: 1) Can apply fungicides for fruit mold control. 2) (southern growing areas) can put out pheromone traps for strawberry crown moth. 3) Put out pheromone traps for leafroller monitoring. 4) (southern growing areas) Scout for leafroller larvae and other potential harvest contaminants. 5) Scout for mites.

Raspberries: 1) (northern growing areas) Scout for raspberry beetle and distinctive leaf feeding pattern. 2) Scout for mites. 3) Scout for aphids. 4) (southern growing areas) Can apply insecticide for harvest contaminants.

Evergreen Blackberries: 1) Can apply fungicide for prevention of blackberry rust infections. 2) Can apply sulfur for redberry mite control.

Blueberries: 1) Scout for tip blight symptoms and determine cause. 2) Can apply fungicide for fruit mold control. 3) Scout for scale. 4) Can treat for alternaria and/or anthracnose fruit rot. 5) Scout for weevil notching on leaves. 6) Prevent bird-feeding damage. 7) Scout for mummyberry, botrytis and other green fruit problems.

Strawberries: Harvest ongoing in SW Washington and Oregon. 1) Scout for weevil leaf notching and adult weevils. 2) Scout for virus symptoms (distorted leaves/new growth). 3) Scout for aphids. 4) Scout for two-spotted mites and cyclamen mites. 5) (southern growing areas) Put out pheromone traps for strawberry crown moth.