



**June 20, 2007**

[Small Fruit Cold Storage Reports](#)

[Event Calendar](#)

[Weather Forecast](#) by Rufus La Lone

[Photos of the Week](#): Bird damage in Blueberries.

[Web Link of the Week](#): **The World's Healthiest Foods**. This is a listing of 130 foods from a non-profit group (George Mateljan Foundation). **Raspberries, blueberries** and **strawberries** all make the list. I think **blackberries** are left off just because of overall availability/familiarity (their judgment, not mine). A lot of information on health research for each entry.

- The **small fruit harvest season is getting into full swing** in Oregon and Southwestern and Eastern Washington. With the northern growing areas in Washington and British Columbia just a week or so behind.
- So far **no major labor problems** have been reported.
- Raspberry and blueberry harvests are going to be right on top of each other.
- There's a greater than usual **difference in this year's rainfall and fungal disease threats** between the southern and northern growing areas this year
  - In the south, dry conditions have limited the mold risk but increased **water stress**.
  - In the north, **botrytis fruit mold** and **root rot** risk/early season incidence are much higher. **Alternaria** and **anthracnose** potential infections in blueberries are also higher than in the south.

#### **Crop Reports:**

- **British Columbia blueberries**: Berries are sizing up and pollination has been very good. The recent cool, wet weather has increased the potential for fruit rot. Some rot problems are being seen even in green fruit. Most post pollination aphid sprays are on.
- **British Columbia raspberries**: Malahats are ripening and some fresh pick will occur this week. Major processed harvest should start in about a week. Bloom is close to finished. Weather was very poor through this last weekend with showers and cooler temperatures. Signs of root rot and mite problems are evident. Mold is also developing in some fields with light fungicide programs.
- **British Columbia strawberries**: Fields are looking average to great. This last weekend was the first for all areas of the Fraser Valley in opening local sales stands. Tough weather last week as the lack of sun and abundant moisture has slowed ripening and made for some soft picked fruit but this week is warmer and dryer.
- **Skagit Valley strawberries**: Hoods and Tillamook are into the first pick. Totems started picking on Monday (6/18). Great crop with good quality.
- **Skagit Valley raspberries**: Development is coming along well. As in other areas, the time gap between the start of raspberry and the start of blueberry harvests will be very short this year. Some fields that had a light (or no) fungicide program during bloom are showing some mold problems.
- **Northern Washington raspberries**: Willamettes will start harvest the last week of June.
- **Northern Washington blueberries**: Crop is looking to be of good quality. As in Canada, this week's improving weather will help with ripening and fungal disease control.
- **Whatcom County strawberries**: Strawberry harvest started Sunday (6/17).
- **Eastern Washington blueberries**: Dukes started coming in on Monday (6/18).
- **Oregon/Southwest Washington raspberries**: Meeker harvest starts this today (6/20). The weather continues to be ideal for good quality fruit and reasonable yields. A little fruit damage that looks to be sunburn from the heat a couple of weeks ago.
- **Oregon blackcaps (black raspberries)**: Harvest will start around Monday (6/26).
- **Oregon/ SW Washington strawberries**: Well into the second/third pick. Quality and yields have been somewhat uneven. But, while market conditions have been a roller coaster, it should turn out to be a pretty good grower year for price and quality. Weather and labor availability, our usual problems, have both been good.
- **Oregon processed blackberries**: Some of the king berries in Marions are turning red, sizing up nicely, still a couple weeks off from harvest. Silvans should start around June 25.

- **Oregon fresh blackberries:** Obsidian picks started this past Sunday (6/17). Siskiyou will start today (6/20) or tomorrow. The crop quality looks excellent.
- **Oregon blueberries:** The first Earliblue will start harvest today (6/20). Early Duke fields tomorrow (6/21). Some minor spots with hail damage, some fields of Bluecrop and Duke with a light crop load but most look excellent. Should (or could...) be a record blueberry year for Oregon.
- **Southern Oregon blueberries:** Dukes started coming in on Monday (6/18).
- **Oregon red currants:** Harvest will start late this week.

#### Industry News:

- **Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission Special meeting/conference call**  
**Wednesday, June 20 at noon.** If you would like to attend this meeting, call 541-758-4043 or [e-mail](#) (include your name) for conference call dialing instructions. **Only agenda item:** Review Ad Hoc committee's promotion contractor recommendations.
- **British Columbia Blueberry Council Annual General meeting & Grower Field Day**  
**Saturday, June 23, 2-4 pm at Johal Farms.** Directions from Mission: West on Hwy 7, Right on 216th St, Left on 128<sup>th</sup> Ave, Right 90 degree bend on to 210th St., Left 90 degree bend on to Dewdney Rd, Right on Neaves Rd. Call Sonja Ring at (604) 613 2133 or [e-mail](#) for information.
- **Oregon Agriculture: Facts and Figures**  
[Click Here](#) for the latest 2-page brochure on 2006 Oregon ag facts.

#### **Pest Alerts:**

##### Insects

- **Orange Tortrix leafrollers: southern caneberries.** The regular June Orange Tortrix hatch is now apparent in many southern caneberry fields. In fields with chronic leafroller contaminant problems, growers are advised to consider control treatments. Early treatments, while the caterpillars are small, are most effective.
- **Weevils: strawberries, raspberries, blueberries.** Treatments for control of Black Vine, Rough Strawberry and Strawberry root weevils are ongoing in strawberry fields. For more weevil information, click on these links: [Rough Strawberry Root Weevil](#), [Black Vine Root Weevils](#), [Strawberry Root Weevils](#).
- **Strawberry Crown Moth: southern strawberries** The calendar and degree day levels indicate that SCM emergence should begin increasing this week. First control applications should go on 10 to 14 days after the first 'consistent' adult emergence (two or three moths caught for two or three consecutive days).
- **Aphids/Scorch Virus: blueberries.** Aphid populations are on the increase. Post bloom treatments are strongly recommended in areas where Scorch Virus is a threat.

#### **New Pest Information**

**Birds, blueberries.** Bird damage control measures are now being implemented in Oregon blueberries. Some growers are applying methyl anthranilate sprays as well as the usual noise and scare devices.

##### Insects

- **Obliquebanded leafrollers: blueberries, raspberries.** Adult OBLR trap catches are now rising in SW Washington and Oregon fields. This is the normal pattern. In the southern growing area, the OBLR larval hatch timing is such that it is very seldom a harvest contaminant even though trap counts of adults right now can be relatively high.
- **Mites, northern raspberries.** Mite numbers are increasing in many raspberry fields.

##### Diseases

- **Botrytis: northern blueberries.** Botrytis fruit mold symptoms are showing up in some fields, even on green fruit. Symptoms seem to correlate with those fields that received fewer fungicide applications during bloom.
- **Botrytis: northern raspberries.** As fruit begins ripening, fruit mold is also starting to show up. As with the blueberries, symptoms seem to correlate with those fields that received fewer fungicide applications during bloom.
- **Blackberry (Phragmidium) Rust: Evergreen blackberries.** While still at low levels, more rust activity is being seen in Evergreens. Growers are advised to scout their fields to determine if further control applications are needed.

#### **Ongoing Pest Information**

(Click on blue, underlined pest name to link to further scouting information, photos, and control options)

##### Insects

- **Mites, strawberries.**
- **Azalea Bark Scale, southern blueberries.** [Click here for information on azalea bark scale](#) and other scale species.
- **Raspberry Sawfly, southern caneberries.**
- **Raspberry Beetle: northern raspberries.**
- **Blueberry Gall Midge: blueberries.**
- **Redberry Mites, Evergreen blackberries.**

##### Diseases

- **Powdery Mildew, southern strawberries.**

- [Yellow Rust](#), raspberries.
- [Alternaria Fruit Rot](#), blueberries.
- [Anthracnose Ripe Rot](#), blueberries.
- [Scorch Virus](#), British Columbia blueberries. Contact [Sonja Ring](#), Research Coordinator for the B.C. Blueberry Council at 604-613-2133 for details of the Ministry of Ag free testing.
- [Mummyberry](#), blueberries.
- [Cane and Leaf Rust](#), blackberries.
- [Shock virus](#), blueberries.

**Cropwork:**

**All caneberries:** 1) Can apply fungicides for fruit mold during bloom. 2) Scout for rust and treat as needed. 3) (southern growing areas) Can put out pheromone traps for Orange Tortrix and/or Strawberry Crown Moth. 4) (southern growing areas) Scout for leafroller larvae and other potential harvest contaminants. Treat as needed.

**Evergreen/Chester blackberries:** 1) Can apply sulfur for Redberry Mite control. 2) Can apply fungicide for prevention of Blackberry Rust infections. 3) Scout for mites.

**Raspberries:** 1) (northern growing areas) Scout for Clay Colored Weevil. 2) (northern growing areas) Scout for Raspberry Beetle and control as needed. 3) Scout for mites. 4) Scout for aphids.

**Blueberries:** 1) Scout for Mummyberry symptoms--control as needed. 2) Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to confirm. 3) Can apply fungicides for fruit mold prevention. 4) Scout for weevil notching on lower leaves. 5) Scout for scale. 6) After petal fall, can treat for Alternaria and/or Anthracnose Fruit Rot. 7) Scout for Tip Blight symptoms and determine cause. 8) Plan for/implement controls to prevent bird-feeding damage.

**Strawberries: Harvest ongoing in SW Washington and Oregon.** 1) Can treat for weevils and other insects. 2) Scout weak areas for root weevil larvae, Strawberry Crown Borers or root disease problems. 3) Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to confirm. 4) Scout for weevil notching leaves. 5) Scout for aphids. 6) Scout for Two-Spotted Mites and Cyclamen Mites. 7) (southern growing areas) Plan to put out pheromone traps for Strawberry Crown Moth. 8) Scout for spittlebugs.