



May 13, 2008

[Photo of the Week:](#)

[Small Fruit Cold Storage Report](#)

[Upcoming Meetings](#) (a calendar of small fruit related events)

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

The first hot weather of the season arrives this week in the southern growing areas. Highs in the Willamette Valley and southwest Washington will be over 85 Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Over 90 on Friday. While in northern Washington and BC it looks like temperatures will only get in the 70's.

**Alert** (Oregon & SW Washington): Evaluate field water status and get irrigation going if needed. While we've had a very cool spring and plants haven't shown any water stress, the soils in many areas are pretty dry. With the heat coming, make sure plant water needs are met.

### Crop Development

#### **Raspberries**

- **Oregon/SW Washington:** (5/13) Bloom should get going this week with the hot weather and 10% bloom will be reached quickly. Fields in general have good color and growth. However, laterals haven't developed to their usual length, and being this late, average yields are probably the best we can plan on.
- **Lynden, Washington:** (5/9) We're still trying to push the laterals with foliar fertilizer and drip injection. Blind bud are a problem in some parts of the county with some spots of heavy mite pressure.

#### **Blackberries:**

- **Oregon:** (5/13) Marions and Silvans both look like they'll be down in yields this year although the causes of the weakened fields are still not certain. Probably a combination of lateness, cold, disease and poor cane training practices. Kotatas look good as do Black Diamond. Bloom could start next week. Harvest looks like it'll start in mid-July.

#### **Blueberries**

- **Lynden, Washington:** (5/9) Reka and Hardiblu are in bloom; Duke and Bluejay, real close; Bluecrop and Jersey, maybe this week. Some frost damage, maybe more as Thursday night it got to 30 or lower.
- **Oregon:** Elliots are around 10-20%. Bluecrop is at full bloom while Duke, Brigitta and Patriot are at blossom drop. The heat over this coming week could finish off the bloom in many fields as well as bring out a lot in other varieties. The crop still is looking very good.

#### **Strawberries**

- **Northern Washington:** (5/9) No strawberry blooms yet.
- **Oregon/SW Washington:** (5/12) Totems are at 50% while Tillamook are 10-20%. It's an unusual season in many ways. Tillamooks are behind Totem. The crop looks to be down in tonnage overall. Harvest will start very late, around the 12<sup>th</sup> of July and with this week's heat, a lot of bloom is going to come out quickly. We could run into problems with the strawberry harvest overlapping the caneberry harvest and processor capacity to run the late fruit could be tight.

**Industry Website:** [Agrian.com](http://Agrian.com) This site, in addition to many other services, has a great chemical label search function. It also offers much more as far as chemical application recording and reporting. This is the type of service that could make pesticide use reporting much easier and will grow in the future. It's all free.

**Industry News** (Go to [www.nwipm.info](http://www.nwipm.info) for more industry information links.)

- **The New Jersey Blueberry Bulletin:** [Click here](#). Then click on the May 5<sup>th</sup> bulletin for a good article on chemigation in blueberries. Also check up on the state of the New Jersey crop this year.
- **Using berries and other fruit for making solar cells:** [Click here](#) for an article on ScienceDaily.com.
- **Berry Industry caught in squeeze:** [Click here](#) for an article in the *Pacific Coast Business Times*.

- **BC Blueberry Council's virus testing program starts up again:** Up to 10 samples per field can be submitted for testing free of charge. All samples need to be submitted with a **Blueberry Scorch Virus / Blueberry Shock Virus Laboratory Submission Form**. Contact Sonja Ring BC Council's Research coordinator for information and the appropriate forms. [sonjaring@shaw.ca](mailto:sonjaring@shaw.ca) (604) 613 2133

### Symposium Information

- **July 14-16, 2008: The 9th International Vaccinium Symposium** will be held at Oregon State University in Corvallis. In addition, a pre-conference tour is scheduled to tour blueberry, cranberry, and lingonberry production in the area. Although this is a scientific meeting with researchers from all over the world presenting, some industry members may wish to attend. **Registration for the pre-Symposium tour closes May 16.** [Click here](#) for registration information and [click here](#) for the web site - Bernadine Strik and Chad Finn, co-conveners.

### New Pest Information

#### **Diseases**

- **Mummyberry, blueberries:** We're now seeing a lot of symptoms of the secondary infection phase of this disease throughout the region. This is the collapse of infected vegetative laterals
- **Disease Alert: Blackberry rust, Evergreen blackberries:** The very bright yellow/orange spore stage is now present in fields. A fungicide application should be considered at this time to prevent an outbreak of this very virulent disease.
- **Yellow rust, raspberries:** Yellow rust in southern raspberries is showing, the bright yellow spots on the tops of inner leaves. The recommended timing for a fungicide to prevent further spread is just before bloom. Since bloom will probably be right around the beginning of next week, this is a good time to evaluate the level of rust in southern fields to determine the need for this application.
- **Alternaria Fruit Rot, southern blueberries:** As blueberry bloom starts to finish in Oregon and SW Washington, it's time to consider whether you need to prevent alternaria and anthracnose problems from showing up in the fruit. Alternaria can infect the fruit beginning at the end of bloom and throughout the fruit development stage, up until harvest. Infections remain latent until the fruit ripens. Infected fruits exhibit a shriveling or caving-in of the side of the berry and can become watery in storage.
- **Anthracnose Ripe Rot, southern blueberries:** If you've had problems with anthracnose, prevention of a reoccurrence needs to begin at petal fall. **Symptoms:** First, blighting of shoot tips; then, a few flowers turn brown or black. Leaf spots, when they occur, are large or small and roughly circular. As infected berries ripen, the flower end may soften and pucker. Under warm and rainy conditions, salmon-colored spore masses form on infected berries. After harvest, spore masses form rapidly on infected fruit when in cellophane-covered baskets or in plastic clamshell packs.
- **Unidentified virus-like symptoms, blueberries:** If growers in any growing region observe virus-like symptoms such as blossoms and/or vegetative laterals collapsing and aren't sure what's causing them: In **Washington and Oregon**, contact [Bob Martin](#) (USDA small fruit virologist) (541) 738-4041 for free testing. In **British Columbia**, contact [Sonja Ring](#) at 604-613-2133 for details of the Ministry of Ag free testing.

#### **Insects**

- **Azalea Bark Scale, blueberries:** This scale's telltale bright white egg sacs on the lower branches of infested plants are becoming very apparent in some southern blueberry fields. [Click here](#) for information on azalea bark scale and other scale species.
- **Mites, strawberries:** Twospotted mite levels continue to rise slowly in some southern strawberry fields. [Raspberries:](#) Some northern raspberry fields are also seeing high levels of mites.
- **Weevils, strawberries:** In SW Washington and the Willamette Valley, weevil pupae are being recovered. Adult emergence should happen this week. Some overwintering adults have also been found. For more weevil information, click on these links: [rough strawberry root weevil](#), [black vine root weevils](#), [strawberry root weevils](#).
- **Barypeithes root weevil, southern blueberries, strawberries:** This is a very small root weevil that has often been found in strawberries and Christmas trees. It has now been recovered in high numbers from two blueberry fields in the southern growing area. They're so small that it's still an issue as to whether they can do significant damage to plantings but their numbers suggest that it needs to be evaluated.
- **Orange Tortrix leafrollers, southern caneberries.** While adult pheromone trap counts continue to climb, very low levels of leafroller larvae are present in fields at this time. Control applications are most effective when timed to actual or predicted high larval populations and not necessarily high pheromone trap counts.
- **Strawberry Crown Moth, southern strawberries and caneberries:** It's a good idea to get out the pheromone traps for crown moth within the next couple of weeks. Control measures can be very effective but need to be closely timed to adult emergence as determined by trap counts. Emergence usually starts in early June.

### On-going Pest Information

#### **Insects**

- **Raspberry Beetle:** northern raspberries.
- **Winter moth/ Bruce span worm,** blueberries.
- **Clay colored weevil,** northern raspberries.

- [Aphids](#), blueberries.

#### Diseases

- [Pseudomonas \(Bacterial Blight\)](#) blueberries.
- [Cane and Leaf Rust](#), blackberries.
- [Shock virus](#), southern blueberries.
- [Purple Blotch](#), blackberries.
- [Raspberry Bushy Dwarf virus](#), Marionberries.
- [Tomato Ringspot virus](#), southern raspberries.
- [Downey Mildew](#), boysenberries & Kotata blackberries (occasionally other blackberries).

#### Cropwork

##### All crops

- Weed control.

##### Blueberries

- Apply fertilizer.
- Can apply mummyberry control materials and/or take other mummyberry management actions.
- Can apply bacterial blight management materials (e.g. copper, [Serenade](#)).
- Scout for span worms/winter moth and treat as needed.
- Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to confirm.
- Scout for scale.
- Scout for weevil notching.
- Bring in bees around 10% bloom.
- Apply fungicide for fruit mold control starting at 10% bloom.
- After petal fall treat for alternaria and/or anthracnose ripe rot as needed

##### Blackberries

- Apply fertilizer.
- Scout for purple blotch lesions.
- Scout for rust.
- Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to confirm.
- Bring in bees around 10% bloom.
- Apply fungicide for fruit mold control starting at 10% bloom.

##### Raspberries

- Apply fertilizer as needed.
- Scout for 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.
- Bring in bees around 10% bloom.
- Apply fungicide for fruit mold control starting at 10% bloom.

##### Strawberries

- As plants start growing, check weak areas for root weevil larvae, strawberry crown borers and/or root disease problems.
- Till row centers.
- Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to confirm.
- Can apply phosphite material for root rot control.
- Apply fungicide for fruit mold control starting at 10% bloom.
- Plan to put out pheromone traps for strawberry crown moth in southern fields.