

Small Fruit Update



June 10, 2008

[Photos of the Week](#): Harvest starts!

[Small Fruit Cold Storage Report](#)

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

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

Crop Reports

Blackberries

- **Oregon:** (6/10) Marions are at full bloom (seems like they have been for a week). The first Evergreen blooms are opening, 10 days later than last year. The coming dry, mild stretch should be great for these crops. Some totally unofficial estimates for starting harvests: Silvan blackberries: July 7-8; Marion blackberries: July 14-15, Evergreen blackberries should be ripe by Thanksgiving (just kidding!). While our mild weather has helped reduce plant stress and maximize fruit sizing, the overall crop loads for blackberries still look to be below normal. It pretty much comes down to July weather being the principal variable in determining overall crop yields and crop quality.

Blueberries

- **British Columbia:** (6/10) The wet, cool conditions of late will affect pollination on the last of the Bluecrop blossoms and the full bloom in the Elliots. Without a lot of bee activity the past 7 days the pollination percentage on Elliots could be off. Muddy fields are a real problem. The current assessment is that we have freeze damage from April everywhere, but it's likely that, in all but Delta and Cloverdale, the plants should compensate for that shortfall and we are still looking at a fairly good harvest right now.
- **Lynden, Washington:** (6/6) The bloom is all but over. More shock virus symptoms are apparent this year.
- **Oregon:** (6/10) Green fruit is sizing well. Very good fruit set and crop potential.

Strawberries

- **British Columbia:** (6/6) We are still looking at a nice strawberry harvest, if the sun comes out that is. In Chilliwack, we should have been eating strawberries for two weeks now, two more weeks to go though this year.
- **Northern Washington, Lynden:** (6/6) There are a few mites here and there along with quite a lot of weevil damaged areas. Aside from that, fruit has good shape and sizing nicely, but late late harvest for us.
- **Northern Washington, Mt. Vernon:** (6/6) From WSU berry crops specialist, Tom Walters, on the Mt. Vernon Station's strawberries: After a very small harvest in the tunnel last week, we had our first substantial harvest this week. Sweet Charlie, Camarosa, Chandler, Seascape, Albion all have fruit. Also Darselect, Stolo, Wendy and three WSU selections. Nice quality fruit, especially considering the weather we're having. No Botrytis yet, but Powdery Mildew is clearly more of a problem in the tunnel.
- **Oregon/SW Washington:** (6/10) Fresh market Albion, Totem and other varieties are picking now although ripening is slow. Processing harvest will start this coming Thursday. Need some sun and warmth to get the sugars up.

Raspberries

- **British Columbia:** (6/10) Last week was the first week of significant bloom on much of the crop, and as it turned out, it was a poor week for pollination with cool temperatures and rain. Very difficult to get fungicides on. This past weekend was near impossible to spray and today's rain and the promise of more for tomorrow will delay things even more.
- **Mount Vernon, Washington:** (6/6) Cold and wet. Bloom just crawling along in raspberries
- **Oregon/SW Washington:** (6/10) Bloom is creeping along. Estimate for starting harvest: Raspberries (machine harvest Meeker): June 30-July. Quality looks very good; the per acre yield potential looks down.

Strawberry Field Days

- **Wednesday, June 11—Oregon State University:** 2 pm at the North Willamette Research and Extension Center in Aurora. It will start with a discussion of the ARS-USDA/OSU Cooperative breeding program strawberry selections— Look for the group out in the field. For directions or information, contact the station at 503-678-1264 or [click here](#).
- **Thursday, June 12—Washington State University:** 10-noon at the Puyallup Research and Extension Station's field. This will be an opportunity to see some of the most promising new WSU selections (such as WSU 2793 and WSU

2833). It is also an opportunity to discuss directions for strawberry research. Contact Dr. Pat Moore for more information. Email: moorepp@wsu.edu, phone: 253-445-4525.

Industry News

- **Field crops swamped, West Michigan farmers worried:** [Click here](#) for this Grand Rapids Press article.

Industry Events

- **June 18---New Agricultural Technology can Reduce Your Production Costs!:** 1-4, North Willamette Research & Extension Center, Presented by the Oregon Agricultural Alliance. OAA members \$75, Non-members \$90. Pre-registration required. Call 503-841-5881 to reserve a place.
- **Michigan State "Berries and Cherries" British tunnel tour:** This tour of Haygrove tunnel production in England is being organized for October 5-8. For information contact Andy Crittenden 503-200-9392.

Regional Updates

- **B.C. Blueberry Council IPM newsletter for June 6:** [Click here](#)
- **Michigan Blueberry IPM Update for June 10:** [Click here](#) and then click on the latest report.
- **Oregon State University Plant Clinic, June Highlights:** [Click here](#) for diseases to watch for in June. This month has photos and information includes leather rot in strawberries and Shock virus in blueberries.

New Pest Information

Diseases

- **Alert: From Mark Sweeney, Ag Canada, berry crops specialist:** "Continuous wetness of blueberry bushes is ideal for Anthracnose infection as well as Botrytis and Alternaria. Recent work by Nitin Verma at SFU showed that Anthracnose infection occurs at cooler weather than previously thought, i.e. 14-15 C (57-59 F) with 10 hours of leaf wetness. Get the Pristine or Switch sprays on whenever possible."
 - [Alternaria Fruit Rot](#), [Anthracnose Ripe Rot](#), [Botrytis](#), [blueberries](#)
- **Shock virus, blueberries:** What appears to be 'secondary shock' symptoms are being reported. Branches that have put out the second flush of growth following shock symptoms have that second flush again collapse when it's about 1-2 inches long. Other speculation is that plants that have shock symptoms are more prone to pseudomonas, and that's what we're seeing. Testing is in the works to tie down the cause(s) of this symptom.
- **Yellow rust, raspberries:** Yellow rust infections are being reported in raspberries in all regions. Given the weather pattern, control applications are highly recommended.
- **Scorch Virus, northern blueberries:** Now is a very good time for checking fields for symptoms and flagging infected plants for removal.
- **Phytophthora Root Rot raspberries:** Root rot symptoms starting to show in a number of B.C. and northern Washington fields as the soil saturation continues.

Insects

- **Weevils, blueberries:**
 - A newly planted SW Washington blueberry field has been reported to have suffered very serious economic damage from weevil feeding on foliage and girdling the branches. The species I.D. is pending. Newly planted fields are particularly vulnerable to weevil damage.
 - *Otiorhynchus ligneus*, a weevil species previously not found in blueberries has been recovered from an Oregon field. This species is unusual in that it has both males and females; almost all of our other weevil species are all females.

On-going Pest Information

Insects

- [Obliquebanded leafrollers](#), northern blueberries.
- [Aphids](#), northern blueberries.
- Twospotted Mites, [Strawberries](#), [Raspberries](#).
- **Weevils, strawberries, 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](#):
- [Raspberry Beetle](#), northern raspberries.
- [Azalea Bark Scale](#), southern blueberries.
- [Orange Tortrix leafrollers](#), southern caneberries.
- [Winter moth/ Bruce span worm](#), blueberries.
- [Blueberry Gall Midge](#).

Diseases

- **Unidentified virus-like symptoms, blueberries: Free testing**
 - In **Washington and Oregon**, [Bob Martin](#) (USDA small fruit virologist) (541) 738-4041.
 - In **British Columbia**, contact [Sonja Ring](#) (BC Blueberry Council's research coordinator) 604-613-2133.

- [Cane and Leaf Rust](#), blackberries.
- [Purple Blotch](#), blackberries.
- [Raspberry Bushy Dwarf virus](#), Marionberries.
- [Phytophthora root rot](#), raspberries: **Free testing** to confirm that *P. fragariae* var. *rubi* is the cause of the dieback, growers in Washington State can have samples pulled and tested for free. Contact [Colleen Burrows](#), Whatcom County WSU Extension IPM coordinator (360) 392-1926.
- [Mummyberry](#), blueberries.
- [Blackberry rust](#), Evergreen blackberries.

Cropwork

All crops

- Weed control.

Blueberries

- Scout for span worms/winter moth, leafrollers and treat as needed.
- Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to confirm.
- Scout for aphids.
- Scout for weevil notching.
- During bloom, apply fungicide for fruit mold control.
- After petal fall treat for alternaria and/or anthracnose ripe rot as needed.

Blackberries

- Scout for rust and treat as needed.
- Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to confirm.
- Bring in bees around 10% bloom.

Raspberries

- Apply fertilizer as needed.
- Scout for rust and treat as needed.
- Can apply phosphite material for root rot control.
- 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

- Check weak areas for root weevil larvae, strawberry crown borers and/or root disease problems.
- Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to confirm.
- Watch for weevil notching and plan for weevil management if needed.
- Can apply phosphite material for root rot control.
- Apply fungicide for fruit mold control starting at 10% bloom.
- Put out pheromone traps for strawberry crown moth in southern fields.