



**August 12, 2008**

[Photos of the week](#): Mummyberry on the bush and in the flats...

[Small Fruit Cold Storage Report](#)

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

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

### **Crop Reports**

#### **Blackberries:** (8/11)

- **Oregon processed:** Evergreens will start hand picking late this week with machine harvest probably the last week of August, about 10 days late unless the coming heat moves them up. The crop looks good. Boysens are done. They finished with a well below average crop. Marions will dribble in probably until the weekend. Quality now is poor and overall yields, as expected, are down. Kotata yields were good this year. Although there's not a lot of acreage yet of the newer cultivars, Black Diamond yields and quality were very good. Black Pearl had good quality but not great yields on small acreages. Flavor components of both are still being looked at pretty closely, but Black Pearl seems to have a definite edge.
- **Oregon fresh:** Navaho and Chester have both started picking. The coming temperatures of close to 100 degrees later this week will likely impact them with both sunburn and softness being serious quality issues.

#### **Raspberries**

- **British Columbia:** (8/12) Harvest is pretty well finished. Just a handful of growers doing one more pick today or tomorrow. Yields are not tremendous (3+ ton range per acre) but probably better than was expected at the outset of this year's harvest. Quality has been good with little mold. Fruit size of Meeker has been on the small side in general. Post harvest issues appear to be dealing with some continuing mite problems in some fields (they just won't give up!) and also a build up of aphid populations. This is probably the first year in a long time when anybody had the funds or drive to want to deal with post harvest aphids. Generally, the primocane growth for next season looks very good.
- **Northern Washington, Lynden:** (8/12) Harvest will pretty much end by the end of the week. Yields will certainly be significantly down, but, as with B.C., the harvest weather has been good for quality and for getting better yields than it looked like earlier.
- **Oregon/SW Washington:** (8/12) Harvest is done. Yield per acre was off from last year some, but quality was excellent. Same story—warm (but not really hot) and dry harvest weather was a big factor. No mold problems at all! Some really beautiful looking fruit came in this year.

#### **Blueberries**

- **British Columbia:** (8/12). Dukes are wrapping up this week. The quality has been excellent with an average yield. Bluecrop is into early pick now and quality here looks very good; however, overall yields are expected to be average at best. Not a deep crop. Some fruit drop was experienced in localized fields after heavy rain on early Sunday morning. Lots of midge damage showing and aphid populations are starting to build again.
- **Northern Washington, Lynden:** (8/12) Duke are being harvested along with some Reka. Quality is pretty good with the main problem being fruit sizing. Yields won't match last year with pollination problems and the late season contributing.
- **Oregon/SW Washington:** (8/12)
  - **Processed:** Harvest is moving along steadily. Generally good season, good crop, good quality. As said before-- sizing issues. Not as much going to processed. Bluecrop, Berkeley, Bluejay, Rubel and the rest of the mid to late season cultivars now coming in.
  - **Fresh:** The first Elliotts were hand picked last week. Legacy, Ozarkblue, Liberty, Brigitta, Bluegold and the second round of Bluecrop are coming in. Aurora and Rabbiteyes are still at least a week or two away. Is that a light at the end of the tunnel?

### **Position Opening**

- **Technician Position Available in the University of Arkansas fruit breeding program:** [Click here](#) for the details. At least a BS with some experience is needed. This would be working with Dr. John Clark, one of the top blackberry breeders in the world with the opportunity to pursue an advanced degree.

### Industry News

- **Blueberry growers await upshot of acreage increase:** [Click here](#) for this 8/1 *Associated Press* article.
- **Fresh blackberries gaining momentum:** [Click here](#) for this 8/5 blurb on *thepacker.com*.
- **Blueberries under pressure:** [Click here](#) for this 8/8 article in the *Capitol Press*.
- **Market ripe for New Jersey blueberry exports:** [Click here](#) for this 8/4 article on *pressofatlanticcity.com*

### Regional Updates

- **B.C. Blueberry Council IPM newsletter for July 31:** [Click here](#).
- **New Jersey Blueberry Bulletin for August 4:** [Click here](#) and then click on August 4. Very interesting comments on the trouble they're seeing with Duke plantings. Some of the same things we see here. Don't plant Duke without good soil preparation/ good drainage and don't let it fruit too early—it can really be stunted from early fruiting.

### New Pest Information

#### **Insects**

- **[Blueberry Gall Midge](#), blueberries.** Significant gall midge pressure is being reported throughout the area. In young field or fields with poor vigor, the excessive branching caused by this midge can potentially stunt growth and impact yields the following year.
- **[Aphids](#), blueberries:** Aphid populations are increasing. In areas where Scorch virus is present, control is recommended to slow down the virus infections.
- **[Aphids](#), northern raspberries:** High aphid numbers are being reported. Many growers are applying post harvest controls.

#### **Diseases**

- **[Cane Blight](#), raspberries:** Right after harvest is the time to protect the open catcher plate wounds from cane blight infections with a fungicide application.
- **[Blackberry rust](#), evergreen blackberries:** While almost all evergreen fields have not had a problem with rust this year, one field scouted has shown a moderate infection rate and has required a preharvest fungicide application to manage the disease.
- **[Redberry Mites](#), late ripening blackberries:** We're starting to see redberry mite problems in late ripening blackberries. They've been verified in some late season Marions, Black Pearl, and early Chesters so far. The berries turn brick red and hard instead of ripening.
- **[Mummyberry](#), southern blueberries:** The late, cool spring seems to have been perfect mummyberry weather. Fields that had a low level before and received a regular preventative fungicide program in the spring, have still come through with much higher infection rates than previously. Need to watch this carefully next spring!

### On-going Pest Information

#### **[Birds](#), blueberries**

#### **Insects**

- **[Yellow mites](#), northern raspberries.**
- **Twospotted Mites, [Raspberries](#).**
- **[Orange Tortrix leafrollers](#), southern caneberries.**
- **[Weevils](#), strawberries, blueberries:** For more weevil information, click on these links: [rough strawberry root weevil](#), [black vine root weevils](#), [strawberry root weevils](#).

#### **Diseases**

- **Blueberry fungal diseases:** [Alternaria Fruit Rot](#), [Anthracnose Ripe Rot](#), [Botrytis](#).
- **Blueberry virus diseases:** [Shock Virus](#), [Scorch Virus](#).
- **Raspberry and blackberry fungal diseases:** [Yellow Rust](#), [Botrytis](#), [Cane and Leaf Rust](#), [Phytophthora Root Rot](#), [Purple Blotch](#).
- **Raspberry and blackberry virus diseases:** Raspberry Bushy Dwarf virus, [Raspberries](#), [Marionberries](#).

### Tissue analysis & soil testing

*Post harvest is the best time to do most soil and leaf testing for nutrient management planning.*

- **Blueberries:** Tissue testing and pH monitoring are most critical. Complete soil tests don't correlate as well with plant needs as tissue tests. [Click here](#) to view OSU's Blueberry Nutrient (and testing) Guidelines.
- **Caneberries:** While annual soil testing has been the industry norm, Oregon State's recently updated nutritional guide recommends annual leaf testing with soil tests done just every few years. [Click here](#) to view OSU's Caneberry Nutrient (and testing) Guidelines.

## **Cropwork**

**Caneberries and blueberries:** Nutrient testing is recommended immediately post-harvest. (see above)

### **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.**

- Bird damage management.
- Scout for fruit disease problems (e.g. Mummyberry, Botrytis, Alternaria, Anthracnose) & determine cause.
- Scout for leafrollers and treat as needed.
- Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to confirm.
- Scout for aphids.
- Scout for weevil notching.

### **Blackberries—Harvest ongoing in the south.**

- Scout for potential crop contaminants. Treat as needed.
- Scout for rust and treat as needed.
- Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to confirm.
- Can treat for fruit mold if needed.
- Scout for redberry mite damage.
- Scout for fruit disorders (e.g. crumbly fruit, dry cell) and determine cause

### **Raspberries—Harvest finishing up**

- Can treat for cane blight prevention in machine picked fields right after harvest.
- Scout for potential crop contaminants. Treat as needed.
- Scout for fruit disorders (e.g. crumbly fruit, dry cell) and determine cause.
- Scout for mites and treat as needed.
- Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to confirm.
- Can treat for fruit mold if needed.
- Scout for aphids and treat as needed.

### **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.
- Renovate harvested fields.