



**August 6, 2009**

**You Tube links of the week:** BEI Harvester has come up with a new technology for mechanical harvesting of berries using blasts of air instead of the rotary heads. They're saying it can pick fresh market quality berries.

- [Click here](#) to see it in raspberries and blackberries.
- [Click here](#) to see it in blueberries.

**Photos of the Week:** Blueberry fruit and foliage damage from last week's heat wave.

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

[Upcoming Meetings](#)

### **Regional reports**

*These reports are from individuals within the region and are their particular observations. They are included to give an impression of the present 'state of the industry' and regional activities.*

#### **British Columbia, Fraser Valley (8/3)**

- **Blueberries:** A tough last week in the Fraser Valley. So much fruit coming on with the hot weather putting a lot of pressure on packers and did cause some receiving problems and fresh fruit closures. Never seen that before. Some soft fruit during the week even with heavy irrigation. Temps got to record highs 38-40 C (100-105F) for consecutive days ! A cooling trend for this week will be welcome. Last of the Duke should go this week as Bluecrop continues to pick strongly. Been seeing some Elliotts bluing up . Great!
- **Raspberries:** Raspberries into the last picks in the next two days. The crop has been pretty good both from a quality and volume standpoint even with the heat..

### **Innovations**

[Click here](#) for [berryinnovation.com](#), an online trade magazine for the northwest berry industry.

- **Reports and videos on some of the new ideas from the World Ag Expo held in Tulare, CA. this last February:** [Click here](#) (from GrowingProduce.com)
- **Reviews on two new small tractors from New Holland and Kubota:** [Click here](#). (from GrowingProduce.com)

### **Industry news/resources**

#### **US/Canada**

- (Nova Scotia-wild blueberries) **A few days of sunny weather could make a difference in the size of the crop:** [Click here](#). (7/29, Telegraph-Journal)
- (Maine) **Leaf Spot Disease Threatens Maine Wild Blueberries:** [Click here](#) (7/30, Fruit Grower News)
- (B.C.) **Urban sprawl leaves little room for farms:** [Click here](#) ( 7/30, bclocalnews.com)
- (U.S.) **Strawberry a day keeps Alzheimer's away:** [Click here](#) (8/6, fruitnet.com)
- (Washington) **Blueberries galore ripe for the picking:** [Click here](#) (8/6, Seattle Times)
- (Western U.S.) **Capital Press inaugurates new website:** [Click here](#) ( 8/6/09) Very nice site. Might want to bookmark this one.

#### **International**

- (Argentina) **Frost trims Argentina blueberry output:** [Click here](#) ( 7/5 fruitnet.com)

#### **Legislative**

- (U.S.) **The Importance of AgJOBS:** [Click here](#) (7/09, American/Western Fruit Grower) Excellent piece on the history of this bill and it's present status.
- (U.S.) **House passes bill giving FDA more oversight of Food Safety:** [Click here](#) (7/31, Wall Street Journal)
- (Washington) **Washington farmers preparing for strict immigration rules:** [Click here](#) (8/5, Capital Press)

### **Newsletters**

- British Columbia Blueberry Commission IPM Newsletter for 7-31-09: [Click here.](#)
- US Highbush Blueberry Council August Bluespaper: [Click here.](#)
- New Jersey Blueberry Bulletin for 8-3-09: [Click here.](#)
- Michigan State Blueberry IPM Newsletter for 8-4-09: [Click here.](#)
- Michigan State Fruit Crop Advisory for 8-4-09: [Click here.](#)

### New Pest Management Information

- **Redberry Mite, late ripening blackberries:** **New treatment method** [Click here](#) for UC management guidelines for this pest. They've come up with an improvement over our traditional sulfur applications, namely: "Horticultural oils, such as Natur'l Oil and Golden Pest Spray Oil, when used at the rate of 1.2 to 2% volume to volume, applied after green fruit or first pink fruit stage in four consecutive applications spaced 2 or 3 weeks apart give significant control of redberry mite, while causing less harm to fruit yield than sulfur sprays."
- **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.
- **Potential northwest berry pest: Light Brown Apple Moth: "Apple Moth quarantine hits central valley"** [Click here](#) (7/31, Central Valley Business Times)
- **Potential northwest berry pest: Spotted Wing Drosophila: "California fruit growers are concerned about a new Asian invader:** [Click here](#) (8/09, Western Fruit Grower) [Click here](#) for video (growingproduce.com)
- **Cane Blight, raspberries:** Right after harvest is the time to protect the open catcher plate wounds from cane blight infections with a fungicide application.

### 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.
- **Blackberries and Raspberries:** 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.