



September 1, 2009

[You Tube link of the week](#): Hellman's 'Eat Real. Eat Local.' Great way to get across the real costs of imported food using animation and graphics (sent by one of our contributors).

[Photos of the Week](#): Godronia Canker in blueberries.

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

Blueberry Disease Alert: [Godronia Canker](#), British Columbia blueberries: (see photos above) From Mark Sweeney, BCMAL: "Godronia has become a devastating problem on many Duke fields particularly in the Pitt Meadows area. Severe dieback has been going on over several years. Many of these fields have been misdiagnosed as frost/winter damage or bacterial blight. Cankers are most easily seen on new wood in spring – dead buds encircled by red lesions (see photo above), clearly visible fungal fruiting bodies. **Most active infection period seems to be during the early fall**, a time when fungicide use for other diseases is not typically done. Preliminary trials have shown that fruit rot fungicides (Bravo, Captan, Pristine) can reduce the number of fall infections. **It would be advisable in fields affected with Godronia to prune out and remove as much inoculum as possible before fall rains and, when the latest summer dry spell ends, apply 2 or more fungicides through September and early October.** The key is to protect the current season's growth from the spore release and infection that will invariably come with the fall rains. Siva Sabaratnam, BCMAL plant pathologist, is studying this disease and, hopefully, there will be more information coming."

Email contacts: [Siva Sabaratnam](#), BCMAL plant pathologist, [Mark Sweeney](#), BC Ministry of Agriculture.

New Pest Alert (updated information): Spotted Wing Drosophila, potential economic pest for all Northwest berry crops: There was an emergency meeting in California last week concerning this pest. It's looking pretty serious. It's been identified so far in California, Oregon, Washington and Florida. It's been determined that given the present confirmed distribution of the pest, it's too late to consider quarantine tactics. Here's the best monitoring technique Ed Show (Driscoll entomologist) and Mark Boldt (UC Extension agent) have come up with:

- Use a pint mason jar. In the lid drill about 4-8 pretty big holes -- can use a standard sized nail.
- In it put the following mixture:
 - 1 package yeast (2 ¼ tsp)
 - 4 tsp sugar
 - 12 oz (1 ½ cup) water
- It's recommended to let them sit in the field (in more shady areas) for 24 hours.
- You'll probably catch a bunch of different fruit fly species. The distinctive spot on the SWD's male wing is pretty diagnostic.
- Since only the males have the spot, figure a 50/50 male to female ratio when estimating population size.

[Click here](#) for more information and some photos.

[Click here](#) for video information (growingproduce.com)

Innovation Update

[Click here](#) to go to *Berry Innovation News*, an online trade magazine for Northwest berry growers.

- **New Holland NH2™ Hydrogen-Powered Tractor Offers Farmers Hope of Autonomous Future:** [Click here](#). This is an experimental tractor, based on their T6000 series is powered by hydrogen fuel cells (106 hp).
- **Comprehensive Automation for Specialty Crops:** [Click here](#) (growingproduce.com, August, 09) for the story. [Click here](#) for this project's ongoing website for in-depth information.

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 (8/31)

- **Blueberries:** Last of the Bluecrop being machined this week. Pretty small stuff. We're into the second pick of good quality Elliotts, and it's just September 1st! A remarkably advanced season for us in B.C. Quite a bit of dead cane flagging in the Dukes. It's not the Godronia Mark Sweeney has run into (see alert above) but may go back to some of the cane injury from winter and late spring frost. A bit puzzling at the moment.
- **Raspberries:** Considerable amount of mites showed up on the raspberries late in August but outside of a few fields, the plants seem to have kept ahead as well as having good predator populations. Quite a few aphids now present, and control measures are needed in some fields where the mites have also contributed to slow the new cane growth.

Northern Washington, Whatcom County (8/27)

- **Blueberries:** Hardiblues are finishing. Bluecrop and Reka will be next to finish, then Jersey. Good quality, just not as much as last year. Postharvest is a time to check for bugs and diseases and treat as needed.
- **Strawberries:** Watch for aphids, weevils and Powdery Mildew.
- **Raspberries:** Aphids should be the biggest bug problem, and check the new cane growth for adequate size. May want to fertilize if needed.

Northern Washington, Skagit County (8/28)

- **Blueberries:** Pretty much down to Liberty and Elliotts on the organic plantings. Large fruit, good quality and about the same as 08' on yield. More Mummyberry than we've seen in prior years. Preparing to cover another 75 acres of organic blueberries that have weed mat with sulfur, gypsum and sawdust applications. We hit the mat a few times with the harvesters but other than that seems to work well for weed control and moisture retention in the root zone.
- **Blackberries:** Blackberry pickers very busy (both of them...).

Pest Management Control Material Update

- **Blueberries, insecticide: Avaunt** (Indoxacarb) has been registered for use in blueberries. It's a new reduced risk insecticide with a unique mode of action. Active on caterpillars, it should be a good fit for Winter Moth and Spanworm management. It has a 7 day PHI and 12 hour REI.

Washington growers: Evapotranspiration reports sent directly to your email or cell phone!

- [Click here](#) for directions on how to use the AgWeatherNet system to send you this valuable water use data to help manage your irrigation scheduling. Thanks to [Tom Walters](#), WSU small fruit horticulturist for putting these instructions together.

Newsletters

- **New Jersey Blueberry Bulletin for 8-25-09:** [Click here](#).
- **Michigan State Fruit Crop Advisory for 8-1-09:** [Click here](#).
- **Michigan State Blueberry IPM Newsletter for 9-1-09:** [Click here](#).

Commission Positions Available

Call 541-758-4043 or email [Philip Gütt](#) for more information on these positions

Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission

- ORBC is comprised of nine commissioners - 6 producers, 2 handlers, 1 public member.
Two positions are available:
Producer: Partial term through June 2011.
Handler #2 Partial term through June 2010.

Oregon Strawberry Commission:

- OSC is comprised of seven commissioners - 4 producers, 2 handlers, 1 public member.
Two positions available:
Public Member: Full term through June 2012.
Handler: Partial term through June 2011.

Meeting Information

[Click here](#) for the full calendar of Northwest berry crop events.

- **September 9— Washington Red Raspberry Commission meeting~** 1-5 pm.WSU Skagit Station, Mt. Vernon, WA. For information call Henry Bierlink at 360-354-8767 or [email](#) him.
- **September 17—Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission meeting and budget meeting ~** 5:30pm. Langdon Farms, Aurora, OR. Call 541-758-4043 or email [Philip Gütt](#) for more information.
- **September 22— Oregon Blueberry Commission meeting~** 12pm. Doaks Ferry Room, Salem, OR. Call 503 364-2944 for more information.

- **September 23— Oregon Strawberry Commission meeting**~ 6pm. West Salem Roth's, Salem, OR. Call 541-758-4043 or email [Philip Gütt](mailto:Philip.Guett@oregonstrawberry.com) for more information.

Industry news/resources

US/Canada

- (U.S.) **Prolonging the life of berries** (with heat after you've bought them): [Click here](#) (New York Times, 8/25)
- (CA) **The pesticide replacement for methyl bromide in California farming is raising concerns:** [Click here](#) (Sacramento News & Review, 8/27)
- (MI) **Blueberry virus strikes Michigan research center:** [Click here](#) (Detroit Free Press, 8/31)

International

- **Chile projects blueberry growth:** [Click here](#) (Fruitnet.com, 8/28)

Health

- **Bio-transformed blueberry juice fights fats and diabetes:** [Click here](#) (Science Codex, 9/1)

On-going Pest Information

Insects

- [Aphids](#), northern raspberries.
- [Blueberry Gall Midge](#), blueberries.
- [Aphids](#), blueberries.
- [Yellow Mites](#), northern raspberries.
- [Two-spotted 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

- [Botrytis Fruit Mold](#), late ripening blackberries.
- [Blackberry Rust](#), evergreen blackberries.
- [Cane Blight](#), raspberries.
- [Redberry Mites](#), late ripening blackberries.
- [Mummyberry](#), blueberries.
- Other blueberry fungal diseases: [Anthracnose Ripe Rot](#), [Alternaria Fruit Rot](#), [Botrytis](#).
- Blueberry virus diseases: [Shock Virus](#), [Scorch Virus](#).
- Other raspberry and blackberry fungal diseases: [Yellow Rust](#), [Cane Botrytis](#), [Cane and Leaf Rust](#), [Phytophthora Root Rot](#), [Purple Blotch](#).
- Raspberry and blackberry virus diseases: Raspberry Bushy Dwarf Virus, [Raspberries](#), [Marionberries](#).