



Disseminating information for: [Washington Red Raspberry Commission](#), [Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission](#), [Oregon Strawberry Commission](#), [Washington Blueberry Commission](#), [Washington Strawberry Commission](#).

August 3, 2004

Blueberries: Harvest is ongoing. 'Elliotts' are being hand picked in the south. As with the other cultivars, rabbiteyes are also coming on early. The heat last week brought on a lot of soft fruit.

Blackberries: A few Marionberries still being harvested. Boysenberries are finished. Evergreens have just started machine picking with some heat damage and small fruit but still looking like a good crop. The heat also caused some damage in the erect and semi-erect types like 'Triple Crown' and 'Chester'.

Hardy Kiwifruit: Crop looks like it will be early. Fruit size is good. Some sunburn is being seen in Oregon. The usual scarring from wind or rubbing damage is also visible on some fruit.

Raspberries: Harvest is finished.

Timing of pruning out old canes: Cane out old floricanes now if cane disease is a problem in red raspberries and trailing blackberries that are done fruiting. If cane disease isn't a problem, wait until October or so for better plant health, improved cold hardiness and less overwintering habitat for leafrollers.

Post Harvest Fertilizer applications: Dr. Bernadine Strik, the OSU small fruit horticulturalist, advises against post harvest nitrogen applications in trailing blackberries as it can cause a late flush of growth and increase the risk of cold damage by an early cold spell. Her research has shown that fertilizer nitrogen is not needed this time of year, as there's plenty in the soil for plants to take up if they need it.

Website of the Week: [Global Berry Farms](#). Their newsletters give fresh fruit crop updates from the Southeast, California, South America and Chile (although it's not kept up to date too well). They also have a good links page and an interesting product availability calendar.

Registration Update: [Serenade ASO](#) (Bacillus subtilis), a biofungicide from Agraquest, now has a label for mummyberry suppression in blueberries. This is approved for organic production.

Insect Update—New information/Alerts

- 1) Mites:** At Ag Central in Lynden, WA there is a mite-brushing machine and microscope for growers to use for counting spider mites as an aid in deciding when and if to treat for them. If you would like to use the equipment, please call Todd Murray at 676-6736 for information.
- 2) Thrips:** Some scarring is showing up on kiwifruit that is longer than the usual wind and rubbing scars. It appears to have been caused by earlier thrips feeding. Growers finding a lot of it would be advised to plan for controlling thrips next year to prevent a reoccurrence.
- 3) Blueberry Gall Midge:** In the south, some blueberry fields with a post-harvest growth flush are showing almost a 100% bud infection rate. Infection rates in some northern fields are also very high. The larvae of this tiny midge feed on actively growing vegetative tips often causing them to die ([click here for pictures](#)). Sometimes the very small white larva can be seen at the base of the dieback. This can result in the lower buds breaking and a 'witches broom' effect. We're still evaluating the economic impact of this pest but some post harvest controls might be needed.

Disease Update—Ongoing information

- 1) Mummyberry:** Some infected berries are showing up in harvested fields; particularly fields that were too wet to be treated in the spring. [Click here](#) for pictures.
- 2) Powdery Mildew:** Some new strawberry fields in the south are showing significant powdery mildew infections.
- 3) Botrytis on blueberry tip growth** is visible in some northern and southern fields.
- 4) Caneblight in raspberries:** The window for treating raspberries for caneblight is immediately following harvest. Infection takes place by water splashing spores into the machine catcher plate wounds on the primocanes.
- 5) Botrytis Fruit Rot:** This is the time of year when fruit rot is the primary disease that can seriously impact fruit yield and quality. Problems have been at a minimum with the recent hot, dry weather.

Cropwork

Raspberries: Harvest finished. 1) Treat for cane blight if needed. 2) Scout for rust and treat as needed. 3) Scout for mites. 4) Can plant cover crop between rows. 5) Can cane out if cane disease is a problem. 6) Can take annual soil test.

Blackberries: Harvest ongoing. 1) Scout for insect harvest contaminants (leafrollers, weevils, stinkbugs, earwigs...). 2) Scout for mold and treat as needed. 3) Scout for redberry mite damage. 4) Can plant cover crop between rows. 5) Can cane out if cane disease is a problem. 6) Can take annual soil test.

For late ripening blackberry varieties 1) Use pheromone traps for leafroller adult monitoring. Also scout for larvae. 2) Can apply fungicide for fruit mold control. 3) Scout for redberry mite damage.

Blueberries: Harvest ongoing 1) Scout for virus diseases. 2) Implement bird control strategies. 3) Scout for mummyberries. 4) Scout for aphids. 5) Scout for leafroller larvae in rolled up leaves. 6) Scout for weevils.

Strawberries: Harvest finished 1) Scout for root weevil and treat as needed. 2) Scout for two-spotted mites and cyclamen mites. 3) Scout for powdery mildew symptoms. 4) Scout for aphids. 5) Plan to renovate fields about four weeks after harvest. 6) Fertilize and water immediately following renovation. 7) Can take soil test on established fields.

Weather for the week

North (Whatcom County): Cooler. Highs in the lower to mid 70s. Lows in the mid 50s.

South (north Willamette Valley): Highs in the mid 70s into the 80s by the weekend. Lows in the high 50s.

Calendar

August 18-20 — North American Strawberry Growers 2004 Summer Tour ~ Delta Quebec Hotel, Quebec City, Quebec, Canada. For more information, [email](#) or call Georgene Thompson 717-243-1349.

Small Fruit Cold Storage Reports: <http://berrygrape.oregonstate.edu/markets/cold.htm>

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