

# Small Fruit Update



June 27, 2006

[Event Calendar](#) [Small Fruit Cold Storage Reports](#) [Weather Forecast](#) by Rufus La Lone

## **Crop Updates:**

**Oregon blackberries:** Two days of over 100 degree temperatures have had a major impact on the quality of the blackberry crop. It caused severe sunburn in virtually all fields that had fruit coloring, including Marions, Kotatas, Silvans, Black Diamond, and Black Pearl ([Click here for a photo of recent sunburn damage in Marionberries](#)). How much overall yield will be affected is difficult to assess but weaker fields are showing more stress symptoms. Some Silvans started picking last Friday, mostly hand picked, machines should start soon. Fresh market Kotata are scheduled to start this Friday but it might be a while for fruit quality to improve enough for commercial fresh market. Boysens look to have had less sunburn. Evergreens are nearing the end of bloom and are looking great.

**British Columbia raspberries:** The heat has brought some major sunscald. Temperatures near body temperature, a strong breeze and sunny made for massive water uptake. Hot weather is also bringing the early fruit on fast. Machine harvest of Meekers will start Monday with most fields starting a few days later. Yields look right now to be similar to last season. There were some considerable mold problems on early Malahats, and some hail damage from last week's thunderstorms.

**Whatcom County raspberries:** Similar conditions and timing to British Columbia. Willamettes started slowly last Thursday. Some Meekers are right behind them.

**Skagit County raspberries:** Machine harvest will start Monday.

**Oregon/SW Washington raspberries:** The record-breaking heat has caused major damage to fruit quality and older, weaker fields. Overall yields and fruit size have also been impacted. Until Saturday we had some good quality fruit. Sunburned, soft and shriveled fruit will need to be worked through. Still hoping to get good quality with later picks. Fresh market raspberries are pretty much out for the next week--could be for the season--just too much sunburn.

**British Columbia blueberries:** The first berries are beginning to ripen in Duke, Patriot, Reka, and June varieties. Harvest is expected to begin in 2-3 weeks The Duke crop volume for the year is likely to be lower than anticipated due to poor size, bacterial blight, frost damage. This may also be the case with Bluecrop although there is a ways to go with that variety.

**Skagit County blueberries:** Crop is coming along but between shock virus and pseudomonas tip blight, yield potential has been hit pretty hard.

**Willamette Valley blueberries:** Dukes, Earliblue and Spartans are now being hand picked for fresh. The heat has degraded fruit quality in some of these fields and fruit might need to go to the processed market instead. The first machine harvest Dukes started early this week although ripening is pretty spread out. Blueberries seem to have weathered the record heat much better than the caneberries. Yield potential is still looking good. Fruit sizing seems to be quite variable.

**British Columbia strawberries:** Most regions are cleaning up strawberries fast with only later varieties still producing strong. Considering the wet weather, there was not too much rot and the size was excellent. Temps now going to 90 F and higher (above 30 C), so the season will wrap shortly. Major damage in some isolated fields from thunderstorm hail a week ago.

**Oregon/SW Washington strawberries:** Commercial harvest is about finished up with a few strip picks still going on. Some good late season fresh market fruit available locally.

**Web link of the Week:** [Click here](#) for a report on **worldwide blackberry production** (10 page PDF file). The authors are: Bernadine Strik (OSU), Chad Finn (USDA), John Clark (University of Arkansas, Fayetteville), and M. Pilar Banados (Universidad Catolica de Chile, Santiago)

## **Field days and Open Houses coming up:**

**Thursday, June 29 —OSU Caneberry Open House** ~ [North Willamette Research & Extension Center](#), in Aurora. Starts at 2:00 pm. Contact [Dr. Bernadine Strik](#) at 541-737-5434 for information.

**Thursday, July 6 —WSU Raspberry Variety Trial Field Day** ~ 2:00-3:00 pm Sakuma Brothers Farm in Burlington, WA. For more information contact [Dr. Pat Moore](#), 253-445-4525 .

**Friday, July 7 —PARC Agassiz Berry Field Day (British Columbia)** ~ 4:00-6:00 pm at the Abbotsford Substation 510 Clearbrook Road. Contact [Chaim Kempler](#), Pacific Agri-Food Research Centre, for more information. 604-796-2221 x 224.

**Wednesday, July 12—OSU Blueberry Open House**~ [North Willamette Research & Extension Center](#), in Aurora. Starts at 1:00 pm. [Click here for an agenda](#). Contact [Dr. Bernadine Strik](#) at 541-737-5434 for information.

**Thursday, July 13 —WSU Raspberry Field Day** ~ 3:00-5:00 pm at the WSU Puyallup Farm 5. For more information contact [Dr. Pat Moore](#), 253-445-4525.

**[New pest Information](#)**

## **Insects/Mites**

- 1) Azalea Bark Scale, blueberries:** ([Click here](#) for recent photo). [Click here](#) for a 2-page PDF file of information and photos. This new pest in southern blueberries has also now been found in blueberry fields the Hillsboro and Gresham areas.
- 2) Aphids, blueberries:** Populations are building again in many fields with many winged aphids present. The danger is increasing for the spread of Scorch virus, particularly the northern growing areas. Preharvest control applications are highly recommended in fields at risk.
- 3) Orange Tortrix Leafrollers, southern caneberries:** Numbers of larvae in southern caneberry fields continues to increase.
- 4) Mites, raspberries, Northern strawberries:** The warm, dry weather pattern favors an increase in mites. Many fields have adequate levels of mite predators to economically control them. Scout for mites and predator species before applying miticides.
- 5) Black Vine Weevils, B.C. blueberries, raspberries:** From [Sonja Ring](#), the BC Blueberry Council's research coordinator, "Weevils are just about at peak numbers in affected fields. Sprays should be applied this week, and should be applied at night when the adults are feeding to kill the adult weevils before they lay their eggs in the soil. "
- 6) Obliquebanded Leafrollers, blueberries, southern caneberries:** OBLR beginning to pupate in the north while pheromone trap counts in the south indicate that we're close to peak flight.

## **Diseases**

- 1) Phytophthora Root Rot, raspberries, blueberries, strawberries:** Root rot symptoms have been mitigated so far by the mild weather, but we are now looking at warm, dry conditions. Root systems compromised by disease will not be able to keep up with plant requirements and symptoms can show up as top growth collapse, yellowing/nutrient deficient leaves, poor fruit quality and/or slow growth. A common cause of root uptake problems in our crops is various Phytophthora species. But Phytophthora isn't the only cause. Examining the root systems and, if unsure, testing is recommended to determine the cause before spending a whole lot of money and time on using the wrong treatment.
- 2) Botrytis, northern raspberries:** Infected berries have been present in most fields in the early season. Warm, dry weather will do a lot to minimize problems this week. Time overhead irrigation to minimize leaf wetness over night.
- 3) Mummyberry, blueberries:** Mummyberry infected berries are showing up in Delta, Surrey, and Port Coquitlam in B.C. as well as some fields in the Willamette Valley in Oregon.
- 4) Blueberry Premature Fruit Drop Disorder** has been identified in a few fields in the Fraser Valley, but only in older Bluecrop plantings. Bushes with this disorder are now dropping their fruit. The berries are blue and small, and cover the ground beneath the bushes. Some green berries may remain attached to the plants, but these berries are distinctly smaller in size than those on healthy plants. Bushes with the disorder stand out in the field because they appear greener and stand taller than bushes carrying a heavy fruit load. The Premature Fruit Drop disorder is not well understood. Bushes do not appear to recover, and should be removed.
- 5) Blueberry Blight Symptoms:** There's still some uncertainty about the causal agents of the outbreak tip dieback in the region's blueberries and it probable that there are multiple causes. [Pseudomonas](#) and [Blueberry Shock virus](#) have been the most prevalent lab diagnoses. [Scorch virus](#), particularly in British Columbia, is also present. If in doubt, test... **Free virus testing: In B.C.:** Growers can submit up to 10 free samples per field for Scorch/Shock virus testing. Contact [Sonja Ring](#) (Blueberry Council) (604) 613-2133. **In U.S.:** Contact [Bob Martin](#) (USDA small fruit virologist) (541) 738-4041.

## **Ongoing Pest Information (Click on underlined blue name for information, photos and control options.)**

### **Insects/Mites**

- 1) Weevils:** strawberries: [Black Vine](#), [Strawberry](#) and [Rough Strawberry](#).
- 2) Strawberry Crown Moth, southern strawberries and caneberries.**
- 3) Raspberry beetle:** northern raspberries.

### **Diseases**

- 1) Alternaria Fruit Rot,** blueberries.
- 2) Phragmidium Rust,** Evergreen blackberries.
- 3) Raspberry Bushy Dwarf Virus,** Marionberries.
- 4) Botrytis,** blueberries.
- 5) Botrytis,** strawberries.
- 6) Anthracnose Ripe Rot,** blueberries.
- 7) Cane and Leaf Rust,** blackberries.

### **Cropwork:**

**All Caneberries: Harvest starting** 1) (southern growing areas) can put out pheromone traps for strawberry crown moth. 2) Put out pheromone traps for leafroller monitoring. 3) (southern growing areas) Scout for leafroller larvae and other potential harvest contaminants. 4) Scout for mites.

**Raspberries: Harvest ongoing** 1) (northern growing areas) Scout for raspberry beetle and distinctive leaf feeding pattern. 2) Scout for mites. 3) Scout for aphids. 4) Can apply insecticide for harvest contaminants.

**Evergreen Blackberries:** 1) Can apply fungicide for prevention of blackberry rust infections. 2) Can apply sulfur for redberry mite control.

**Blueberries: Harvest starting** 1) Scout for tip blight symptoms and determine cause. 2) Can apply fungicide for fruit mold control. 3) Scout for scale. 4) Can treat for alternaria and/or anthracnose fruit rot. 5) Scout for weevil notching on leaves. 6) Prevent bird-feeding damage. 7) Scout for mummyberry, botrytis and other green fruit problems.

**Strawberries: Harvest wrapping up** 1) Scout for weevil leaf notching and adult weevils. 2) Scout for virus symptoms (distorted leaves/new growth). 3) Scout for aphids. 4) Scout for two-spotted mites and cyclamen mites. 5) (southern growing areas) Put out pheromone traps for strawberry crown moth. 6) Plan for field renovation.