

# Small Fruit Update



July 6, 2006

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

**Pest alert: Aphids, northern blueberries:** There's a high risk of the spread of **Scorch virus**, particularly in British Columbia. In untreated fields, populations of both winged and unwinged aphids have increased to high levels. Control of this population is critical to control this virus.

## **Crop Updates:**

**Oregon blackberries:** Marionberries and boysenberries are starting machine harvesting right now. Silvans and Kotata are also coming in. We've got excellent weather conditions for picking. Sunscald is by far the major quality issue—there's good quality fruit but it takes a lot of sorting. Boysens seem to have come through with less scalding than the Marions. Hardly any mold at all. Black Diamond and Nightfall have begun hand picking. On the fresh side, we're getting past the sunscald in the first pick of Kotata and quality is now excellent. Obsidian is also looking good. The cooler weather is, thankfully, slowing things down.

**Oregon black raspberries (blackcaps):** Harvest is ongoing. Due to the heat stress, fruit size is smaller than anticipated. The overall yields will be down significantly from original estimates.

**Whatcom County raspberries:** Certainly opposite weather versus last year when we had three weeks of rain at this time. Raspberry harvest is slowly gearing up. Lots of heat damage, sunburn on berries and scorching on leaves. Looks like our crop will take a big hit along with the freeze damage in February. Don't look for an average crop.

**Oregon/SW Washington raspberries:** ([Click here for recent photo of sunscald on raspberries](#)) Other than the sunscald, the fruit is looking very good with little mold and a high percentage of IQF quality. Older and stressed fields are going to finish quickly. Younger fields came through the heat in pretty good shape. The ability to stay on top of the soil water status is making a huge difference this year.

**British Columbia blueberries:** Berries are ripening in Duke, Patriot, Reka, and June varieties this week. Harvest is expected to begin within 1-2 weeks for these early varieties. Berry development in Abbotsford and Langley is approximately 1-2 weeks ahead of berry development in other regions of the Fraser Valley.

**Willamette Valley blueberries:** Duke harvest is into full swing. Heat damage is being seen in some fields as shriveling and some discolored fruit that quickly drops off. Getting into the second pick with some machine picks for the processed market beginning. Quality is very good. Reports are that Reka struggled to make fresh market quality this year with soft fruit.

**Whatcom County strawberries:** Strawberries are well into the second pick.

**Oregon minor crops:** Black and red currants are picking. White currants will start Monday. Red gooseberries are being harvested.

**Organic Farm Manager Opening:** [Evergreen Agricultural Enterprises](#) is looking for a farm manager for their berry division. Evergreen has 200 acres of organic blueberries, 30 acres organic blackberries and 7 Acres of organic raspberries in the McMinnville, Oregon area. Contact [Bradley Evers](#), Dir. of Sales & Marketing – Berries, 503-472-9361 x 4972.

**Web link of the Week:** The **Washington Red Raspberry Commission** has just posted presentations on raspberry production made by the participating countries at the **5th International Raspberry Association conference held in Serbia last month**. There are reports from 7 countries plus a **joint marketing proposal**. [Click here](#) for the presentations. The PDF file of the China report is very large and I can't get it to download.

**New Jersey Blueberry Newsletter:** [Click here](#) for the June 28<sup>th</sup> issue to get an idea of the present conditions for New Jersey blueberry growers. It also has some strategies for organic growers.

**Crop Water Use:** Water use has been very high, especially in areas where the heat was most extreme. Great time to get out a soil auger and check soil moisture through the root zone.

## **Crop Water Use Estimates (ET rates) for the last week in inches:**

	Lynden, WA	Mt. Vernon, WA	Vancouver, WA	Forest Grove, OR	Corvallis, OR
<b>Caneberries</b>	1.2	1.7	2.4	2.1	2.2
<b>Blueberries</b>	1.0	1.3	2.0	2.2	2.2

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

**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. There will be a Small Fruit Open House 3:15 -5 PM at WSU-NWREC (Mount Vernon), immediately following the raspberry variety trial at Sakuma Bros. Contact [Dr. Tom Walters](#) at 360-848-6124 for

more information. .

**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**

**Birds, blueberries:** Do what needs doing to keep your blueberry crop intact. [Click here](#) for a concise (3 page PDF file) analysis of management methods from Dr. Marvin Pritts at Cornell University.

### **Insects/Mites**

1) **Mites, raspberries:** Mite levels are rising with the warm, dry weather. **Commercial miticides** for raspberries are limited **Vendex** (hexakis), and **Savey** (hexythiazox). Both have their liabilities: Vendex needs warm temperatures to work well; Savey works on eggs and nymphs but not adults. A combination is probably the best option but expensive. Some more options would be very welcome....

2) **Blueberry Sawfly, B.C. blueberries:** Sawfly larvae have been found in a few blueberry fields in Delta this week. [Click here](#) for blueberry sawfly information. These are not generally found at levels that require control measures.

3) **Orange Tortrix Leafrollers, southern caneberries:** Some O.T. larvae have been picked up as a contaminant in harvested marionberries. Growers are advised to scout fields for larvae before harvest and apply control measures as needed.

4) **Strawberry Crown Moth, southern blackberries:** Trap counts are rising quickly in some area fields. Recommended treatment in blackberries is an insecticide drench in the fall or spring to kill the larvae feeding on the crown and roots.

5) **Strawberry Crown Moth, southern strawberries:** Trap counts are also rising quickly in a number of area fields. The recommended treatment in strawberries is a series of insecticide applications right now to kill the adults and newly hatched larvae before they have a chance for the next generation to infest the strawberry plants.

### **Diseases/disorders**

1) **Blueberry Rot, southern blueberries:** Salmon colored, very soft berries that fall off the bushes and then turn white and harden are being recovered from many fields. I'm pretty sure this is heat-damaged fruit. Some tests are being run to check for possible disease organisms.

2) **Blueberry Blight Symptoms, northern blueberries:** Infected growing tips are still multiplying in some fields. You can tell the damage is recent because the berries look okay, but the leaves of affected bushes are drying up, starting at the branch ends/new growth. Many of these plants may have looked fine last week, and are just starting to show their symptoms now. It is unusual to see symptoms coming on so late. [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) [Azalea Bark Scale](#), blueberries: [Click here](#) for a 2-page PDF file of information and photos. 2) [Black Vine Weevils](#), blueberries, raspberries. 3) [Obliquebanded Leafrollers](#), blueberries, caneberries. 4) [Weevils](#): strawberries. [Black Vine](#), [Strawberry](#) and [Rough Strawberry](#). 5) [Raspberry beetle](#): northern raspberries.

#### **Diseases**

1) [Phytophthora Root Rot](#), [raspberries](#), [blueberries](#), [strawberries](#). 2) [Botrytis](#), raspberries. 3) [Mummyberry](#), blueberries 4) [Alternaria Fruit Rot](#), blueberries. 5) [Anthracnose Ripe Rot](#), blueberries.

#### **Cropwork:**

Don't forget to pay attention to new plantings of all berries for weeds, water, insects, diseases and nutrient deficiencies.

**All Caneberries: Harvest ongoing** 1) (southern growing areas) can put out pheromone traps for strawberry crown moth. 2) Put out pheromone traps for leafroller monitoring. 3) Scout for potential insect harvest contaminants and treat as needed. 4) Scout for mites. 5) (northern growing areas) Scout for raspberry beetle and distinctive leaf feeding pattern.

**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.