July 26, 2006
Event Calendar Small Fruit Cold Storage Reports Weather Forecast by Rufus La Lone

Crop Updates:
Oregon blackberries processed: Marions will trickle in until the end of the week with some IQF, no mold and sun damage is not bad in that the fruit that 's being picked is on the inside the bush. A few Boysen fields are still picking but most are finished. Kotatas are close to done. Nightfall still has a couple of picks. Hulls, Loch Ness and Chesters have started. Some ripe fruit showing in Evergreens with the first hand picking starting in about two weeks.
Oregon blackberries fresh: In addition to the varieties above, Triple Crown is still coming in and looking pretty good with about 10-15% sunscald. Navaho's have also started picking.
British Columbia raspberries: Harvest is pretty well over. About one pick left this week and a small one at that. The weekend heat really finished it off. Volumes are down and the price is awful.
Whatcom County raspberries: Some raspberry growers have ended but many still plugging along. Yields are significantly below average.
Skagit County raspberries: The crop will be going to be down by even more than revised estimates due to the heat.
Oregon/SW Washington raspberries: Last picks are happening right now. Won't be quantity, won't be quality and it won't be worth much.
British Columbia blueberries: Harvest is finishing in some early varieties already. Considerable soft fruit is showing up due to the intense past few days of heat. Sun scalded fruit also present in some fields on upper canopy fruit especially exposed to the direct afternoon sun. On fields where soil moisture could not keep up with plant demand, leaf scorching also very evident. There's considerable leaf scorch in some Elliot fields. Fruit volumes appear to be well off early expectations but demand and prices are strong.
Whatcom County blueberries: Duke's are looking good, one machine picking in a lot of fields may get 95% of the fruit.
Skagit County blueberries: Blues looking great (the ones that are still here!!). Volume and yield will be down, as projected, due to the multiple problems: phomopsis from last fall, shock virus, and pseudomonas this spring. It's the "triple crown" of blueberry problems. Mummyberry is coming though even on some treated fields. Organic fields are taking it fairly hard.
Willamette Valley blueberries: Reports are that some Elliott fields will have 10-15% sunscald on the first picks. Fields reporting this damage didn't have any overhead irrigation. The major heat effect seems to be soft fruit. Blue Crop, Legacy, Ozark Blue, Berkeley, and Blue Ray are all coming in. Berkeley and Blue Ray have the worse soft fruit problems.

Crop Water Use Estimates (ET rates) in inches: The evapotranspiration numbers don't get much higher than this--

	Lynden, WA 7/17-7/23	Mt. Vernon, WA 7/17-7/23	Aurora, OR 7/18-7/24	Forest Grove, OR 7/17-7/23	Corvallis, OR 7/18-7/24
Caneberries	**1.2**	**1.3**	**1.7**	**2.1**	**2.3**
Blueberries	**1.2**	**1.3**	**1.8**	**2.1**	**2.5**

Weblink of the Week: **Click here** to go to a report from the **National Climate Data Center** (which, for some reason, is in the Department of Commerce) on the first half of 2006. It's the warmest first half of the year ever. Global weather reports and information are also on this site.

New pest Information
Insects/Mites
1) Mites, raspberries: All areas are reporting problems with mites in raspberries with the highest pressure we've seen in years. Some correlation is being observed between the choice of insecticide used for the pre harvest clean up and mite pressure. The mite predator species, Stethorus punctillum, (also called mite destroyers) are building in some southern fields. **Click here for Stethorus photos.**
Adult weevils continue to feed on blueberry bushes at night and are now laying their eggs in the soil.

2) Black Vine Weevils, blueberries: Adult weevil leaf notching is now visible in many blueberry fields. This is an easy and effective time to scout for them. Unfortunately, egg laying is also now taking place, so the window for controlling them by killing the adults is closed. Mark areas of infestations for later treatment and monitoring.
. tent caterpillars (fall webworm) are showing
3) Fall webworm (tent caterpillars), blueberries: These seem to be having a bumper year. Prune out infested branched and remove them from the field. **Click here** for a general information sheet.

Diseases

3) Cane Blight, raspberries: The window for treating raspberries for cane blight is immediately following harvest. Infection takes place by water splashing spores into the machine catcher plate wounds on the primocanes.
1) Bacterial Canker (Pseudomonas), **blueberries:** Branches girdled by Pseudomonas cankers are now showing as dead 'flags' in some fields. They should be pruned out below the cankers and removed from the field.
2) Blueberry Fruit Drop Disorder: Watch for Bluecrop bushes that may be prematurely dropping their fruit. If you suspect Blueberry Premature Fruit Drop disorder, flag suspicious plants and look at them in next spring. Plants with Premature Fruit Drop have red streaking on the blossoms and leaves during bloom.

Ongoing Pest Information (Click on underlined blue name for information, photos and control options.)
Birds, blueberries: Click here for a concise (3 page PDF file) analysis of management methods.

Insects/Mites

1) Aphids, blueberries.
2) Azalea Bark Scale, southern blueberries: Click here for updated photos and information.
3) Weevils: strawberries. **Black Vine**, **Strawberry** and **Rough Strawberry**.
4) Blueberry Gall Midge, blueberries.

Diseases

1) Botrytis, caneberries, blueberries.
2) Phytophthora Root Rot, **raspberries**, **blueberries**, **strawberries.**
3) Alternaria Fruit Rot, **blueberries.**
4) Anthracnose Ripe Rot, blueberries.
5) Mummyberry, **blueberries.**

Cropwork:

Tissue analysis & soil testing: Post harvest is the best time to do most annual soil and leaf testing for nutrient management. In blueberries, tissue testing and pH monitoring are recommended. In caneberries, annual soil testing is recommended.
Newly planted baby fields—all crops: 1) Control weeds. 2) Fertilize. 3) Scout for aphids and control as needed.
All Caneberries: Harvest ongoing 1) Scout for potential insect harvest contaminants and treat as needed. 4) Scout for mites and treat as needed. 5) Treat for cane blight immediately after harvest if needed.
Blueberries: Harvest ongoing 1) Scout for aphids in fields having or close to fields having blueberry Scorch virus, 2) Implement bird control program. 3) Scout for scale. 4) Can treat for alternaria and/or anthracnose fruit rot. 5) Scout for weevil notching on leaves. 5) Scout for mummyberry infected fruit.
Strawberries: Strawberries will love to runner in this heat. Good time to be sure that strawberry fields have their fertilizer and that there is some soil moisture so that runners can set.
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) Scout for powdery mildew and treat as needed. 7) Renovate fields about four weeks after harvest.

U.S. only

Chemical Control Update:

Insect Control, blueberries: Click here for an explanation from the Michigan State Extension on the changes proposed for Guthion and Imidan uses in blueberries. It also goes through how to submit comments to the EPA on these proposed changes.

- **Proposed changes for Imidan: 1)** 3 day re-entry interval (increased from 24 hours). **2)** Label amendments for buffer zones around houses and occupied dwellings. **3)** Elimination use in U-pick operations.
- **Proposed changes for Guthion**: Complete removal by 2010. **In the meantime--- 1)** Reduce maximum annual use to 1 lb active ingredient (i.e. 2 lb of 50WP). **2)** Increase re-entry interval to 14 days. **3)** Label amendments for buffer zones around houses and occupied dwellings **4)** 100 ft buffer zones around bodies of water. **4)** Manufacturers to gather data on workers after application. **5)** Eliminate use on U-pick operations. **6)** Eliminate aerial applications.

Canada Only

Scorch virus and **Shock Virus, B.C. blueberries**: Blueberry Scorch and Shock Virus symptoms in many fields will be disappearing now as the plants go into a recovery phase and put on new growth. This new growth may look healthy, but Scorch infected plants will never recover. Infected plants will continue to display symptoms each year and will be a source of new infection for surrounding, healthy plants, as long as they remain in the field. Scorch infected plants should be removed from the field once a positive has been identified. It is easiest to stump affected plants at this time, and remove the root balls in the fall. New growth from infected roots will still be infected. If there are aphids present on infected plants, you may want to use an aphicide on affected plants prior to stumping, to avoid dragging those aphids through the field so there is no accidental transfer to healthy bushes while you are removing the infected plant(s). **Now is the time to get your samples in for free testing - if you haven't already submitted them!**