



August 1, 2006

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

Free Testing for [Scorch virus](#) and [Shock Virus](#): This offer is ending soon-- Free virus testing is still available but the clock is ticking—can't put it off any longer, guys-- Up to 10 free samples can be submitted per farm. Call Sonja Ring, the research coordinator for the B.C. Blueberry Council, at (604) 613 2133. Please...

Crop Updates:

Oregon blackberries: It's a pretty quiet week on the processing end. A few Marions and Kotatas are still coming in. Evergreens are still about 10 days away from machine harvest. Nightfall is still picking. Chester and Hull are coming in. Exclusively for the fresh market, Triple Crown, Navaho, and Loch Ness are all harvesting.

Skagit County blackberries: Black Diamond will be finished early next week with a good quality harvest. The Obsidian fruit that came in was excellent this year and the variety looks to have good potential as a berry for the IQF tunnel. Chester is still has some time to go before starting harvest.

Whatcom County raspberries: Raspberry harvest is almost done. Many growers are reporting half as much tonnage as last year. Quite a few will be applying a fungicide to protect the mechanical picker wounds as soon as possible after harvest.

Skagit County raspberries: Harvest is all but done, and not sure it pays to be running up and down the row for the few berries we're getting. At least the poor crop was offset by the low price. Next year's primocanes look very strong, probably in part due to lack of a crop this year.

British Columbia blueberries: Harvest continues in all regions this week. Some bushes are showing signs of draught stress from the hot weather. Temperatures are supposed to be a bit cooler for the weekend and into next week, but no rain in the forecast. Irrigation systems are going full tilt.

Whatcom County blueberries: Blueberry picking in full swing, good quality but reduced yields due to frost, pseudomonas and heat.

Skagit County blueberries: It's going to be a short season for blueberries here. Blue Crop and Elliot look to have reduced size due to record heat. Couple this with the already lower projected yields in the Skagit, and you have a tough season. Good prices will help with low production but...

Willamette Valley blueberries: Elliotts have just started harvest this week. Blue Crop is still coming in. Legacy and Ozark Blue are into their second pick. Soft fruit has been a problem. Rubel yields are down significantly due to last week's heat. It hit just as fruit was ripening and resulted in small, soft fruit that wouldn't drop off. Seasonal, dry weather will help the later picks.

Crop Water Use Estimates (ET rates) in inches:

	Lynden, WA 7/25-7/31	Mt. Vernon, WA 7/25-7/31	Aurora, OR 7/25-7/31	Forest Grove, OR 7/25-7/31	Corvallis, OR 7/25-7/31
Caneberries	1.0	1.1	1.3	1.9	1.7
Blueberries	1.1	1.1	1.5	1.9	1.9
Precipitation	0	0.27	0	0.08	0

Thanks to Tom Walters (WSU Small Fruit Horticulturist) for supplying some of this information each week. From Tom, "ET's have dropped off somewhat with the cooler, wetter pattern in the Northern growing areas. Although raspberry harvest is finished, remember that they still need water to finish growing primocanes, initiate next year's flower buds and for a flush of root growth this fall."

Weblink of the Week: National Organic Standards: The *Dallas Morning News* did an analysis last week on how well the national organic food standards are being enforced. A couple of quotes: 1) "The United States has 2.2 million organic acres; **China has 8.6 million. Almost 90 percent was certified in 2004**, which raises a red flag ... it's questionable that China could have transitioned farmland that quickly." 2) "*The Dallas Morning News* reviewed hundreds of audits of certifiers that show many violations. Yet the **USDA has never yanked or suspended a certifier's accreditation**, despite

auditors' recommendations to do so." [Click here](#) to go to the article. [Click here](#) for the national organic program's website.

[This week's pictures](#) on the Northwest IPM web site's home page are of Blueberry Gall Midge. We usually change the pictures weekly during the season, less often during the rest of the year.

New pest Information

Insects/Mites

Bottom line on pest control: Watch the aphids in blueberries and the mites in raspberries.

1) **Aphids, blueberries:** Aphid populations are building earlier than normal in Skagit County. While in British Columbia aphid populations are beginning to decline in many fields where aphid predators are present. B.C. also reports fewer winged aphids are present this week.

2) **Mites, raspberries:** Record Heat = a whole lot of mites.

- Some correlation is being observed between the choice of insecticide used for the preharvest clean up and mite pressure.
- If control applications are needed, the combination of **Vendex** and **Savey** has been working well in the heat.
- The mite predator species, *Stethorus punctillum*, (also called mite destroyers) are building in some southern fields. Predator mites are also a major element in controlling pest mite species.

Diseases

1) **Anthraxnose Ripe Rot, blueberries.** Anthracnose infected berries have been observed in Delta, Port Coquitlam, Pitt Meadows, and Abbotsford. Disease levels appear significantly higher in fields that were not treated with either Cabrio (pyraclostrobin) or Bravo (chlorothalonil) during bloom.

2) **Mummyberry, blueberries.** Mummyberry infected berries have been found in all regions of the Fraser Valley as well as throughout the U.S growing regions. The infected berries dry up and are falling to the ground. This is a good window of time to scout fields for signs of the disease. Just scan the ground under the bushes for the white, dried fruit.

Chemical Control Update:

Insect Control, blueberries: Corrections—Joe DeFrancesco, our excellent Pesticide specialist at Oregon State University has a few clarifications and comments on last week's information that we passed on from Michigan State about Guthion and Imidan use in blueberries:

Joe says:

"As per the Chemical Control Update from Michigan State, I thought I would provide some clarification in the event that PNW growers/field reps might be confused:

1. Guthion:

Guthion is not, and has never been, registered for use in OR and WA; the registration has always been for Michigan and the other eastern states.

2. Imidan:

The Oregon Special Local Needs Label is still in effect and allows for a 1 day PHI. The new Section 3 label now includes **blueberries** and is also valid. Gowan may cancel the Special Local Needs Label because the use is covered in the Section 3 label. I have already written a letter to EPA on behalf of the Oregon Blueberry Commission stating the need to retain the 24-hour REI. As mentioned in the Michigan State University news bulletin, others can comment to EPA, too, by the August 8th deadline."

[Click here](#) for the original information from the Michigan State Extension.

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) **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.

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) [Cane Blight](#), raspberries.

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.

3) [Botrytis](#), caneberries, blueberries.

4) [Phytophthora Root Rot](#), [raspberries](#), [blueberries](#), [strawberries](#).

5) [Alternaria Fruit Rot](#), 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: 1) Scout for mites and treat as needed. 2) Scout for potential insect harvest contaminants and treat as needed. 3) Treat for cane blight immediately after harvest if needed.

Blueberries: 1) Scout for aphids in fields having or close to fields having blueberry Scorch virus. 2) Bird control. 3) Scout for scale. 4) Scout for weevil notching on leaves. 5) Scout for mummyberry infected fruit.

Strawberries: 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. 6) Renovate fields about four weeks after harvest.