



August 8, 2006

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

Crop Updates:

Oregon blackberries: Marions finally finished last week with the last Kotatas coming in now. Evergreens have just started. They look good with just a little sun burn damage and, seems like a miracle after last year, no impact on yields or fruit quality from Phragmidium rust.

British Columbia raspberries: Picking finished about mid-week last week. Growers are reporting reductions of from 10-50% compared to last season. Overall, the fruit quality is good with no major insect or mold problems. The hot, dry weather has maintained mite populations with some fields having to resort to control sprays. Cooler temperatures and maybe some shower activity this week would lower the threat level. Primocane growth is good.

Whatcom County raspberries: Raspberry harvest winding down. Some growers hanging it up after 1/2 crop and 1/2 price. Some post-harvest sprays to heal picker wounds and kill mites are going on.

British Columbia blueberries: Bluecrop is still picking but the later pick is light. As with earlier varieties, the first pick really cleaned shop. Quality has not been too bad with some consideration to softer fruit due to hot weather. Elliotts are 4-6 days away from first pick. There is some good vegetative growth in the fields that have kept up with water requirements. Drought stress is very evident in others.

Whatcom County blueberries: Blueberry picking in full swing, quality looks very good, but overall crop yields will be down.

Willamette Valley blueberries: Fruit quality has been pretty good with softness still the main problem. Bluecrop are finishing up. Legacy and Ozarkblue are well into their harvest. Elliotts have begun. The new variety, Liberty, has also started. Aurora, another recent introduction, begins harvest a few days later than Elliott. Early Rabbiteye varieties are just beginning to hand pick. Hopefully our moderating temperatures will improve fruit quality.

Crop Water Use Estimates (ET rates) in inches:

	Lynden, WA 8/1-8/7	Mt. Vernon, WA 8/1-8/7	Aurora, OR 8/1-8/7	Forest Grove, OR 8/1-8/7	Corvallis, OR 8/1-8/7
Caneberries	1.0	1.3	1.6	1.9	2.0
Blueberries	1.1	1.2	1.5	2.0	2.0

No precipitation reported this week

Nutrient testing recommendations: **Correction:** In response to my comment last week saying, " In caneberries, annual soil testing is recommended." OSU Small Fruit Horticulturist Bernadine Strik responded, "We recommend annual tissue testing and soil every few years or when monitoring correction of a nutrient problem. Please refer to our new caneberry nutrient management guide:<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pdf/em/em8903-e.pdf> "

Weblink of the Week: **Specialty Crop Industry Priorities for the 2007 Farm Bill 2007 Farm Bill:** [Click here](#) for the 25-page draft document (in Word). Many of the Northwest small fruit commission members have been involved in this process to have our industry's interests addressed in the upcoming Farm Bill.

Photos of the week: A couple of photos of our seasonal workers, in appreciation of all their hard work. Here's hoping we can find ways for all of us to continue making a living together.

New pest Information

Insects/Mites

1) **Obliquebanded Leafrollers**, **B.C. blueberries:** The second generation of Leafroller caterpillars is now being found. These aren't causing damage, but can be a harvest contaminant.

2) **Aphids**, **blueberries:** Aphid numbers are declining in blueberries in all regions.

3) **Mites**, **raspberries:** These continue to be a problem in many fields. They can defoliate primocanes, inhibiting their growth.

Diseases

1) [Scorch virus](#) and [Shock Virus](#), **B.C. blueberries**: Samples for virus testing should be submitted to the lab before **August 15 for free testing**. Up to 10 samples can be submitted per farm. Contact Sonja Ring at (604) 613 2133 for more information.

2) [Anthracnose Ripe Rot](#), blueberries. Anthracnose infected berries have been observed in all B.C. regions.

Chemical Control Update:

A reminder to U.S. caneberry growers—The EPA has cancelled all uses of **Guthion (Azinphos-methyl)** in caneberries. The use of existing stocks is permitted only until September 30, 2006.

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.

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

3) [Alternaria Fruit Rot](#), blueberries.

4) [Mummyberry](#), blueberries.

Cropwork:

Tissue analysis & soil testing: Post harvest is the best time to do annual leaf testing for nutrient management. In blueberries and caneberries, annual tissue testing is recommended. Soil testing is recommended every few years or when monitoring correction of a nutrient problem.

Caneberries: 1) 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. 2) Scout for mites and treat as needed. 3) Scout for potential insect harvest contaminants and treat as needed. 4) 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.