



July 10, 2007

[Event Calendar](#)

[Weather Forecast](#) by Rufus La Lone

[Photo of the Week](#): Symptoms of Armillaria Root Rot in blueberries. Some fields in British Columbia have been diagnosed with this disease.

[Small Fruit Cold Storage Report](#)

Field Days/Events (Correction: Last week's Update had the wrong days of the week for this week's field days)

- **Tuesday, July 10** —WSU Raspberry Field Day ~ 3:00-5:00 pm at the WSU Puyallup Farm 5. For more information contact Pat Moore, phone 253-445-4525 or [email](#).
- **Wednesday, July 11** —Berry Field Day/Raspberry Machine Harvesting Trial ~ 11:00 am - 5:00 pm Sakuma Brothers and WSU Mount Vernon NWREC. [Click here for schedule of events](#). Contact Tom Walters for more information, phone (360) 848-6143 or [email](#).
- **Tuesday, July 17**—Raspberry Machine Harvesting Trial ~11:00-1:00. Honcoop Farm, Lynden, WA. This will be an opportunity to see and taste fruit from promising selections. There are 46 WSU selections, 37 BC selections and seven cultivars including Cascade Bounty and Moutere. Questions/directions- call Dr. Pat Moore 253-445-4525 or cell at 253-970-8058.

Crop Reports

Raspberries

- **Oregon/Southwest Washington**: Fruit continues to be good quality; a lot of it going A grade IQF. They will end sooner than normal. Growers are hitting them hard now to get off as much as possible before the heat.
- **Whatcom County (Northern Washington)**: Harvest is ongoing but this week's predicted 95-100 F could make for a short, light harvest. All the winter rain along with cool/wet spring have set up plants that won't hold up well to heat. Root rot symptoms also becoming more visible.
- **British Columbia**: Machine harvest in full started mid-week last week (July 4). Some big picks on the first go around as there was a bunch of early bloom that came all at once. Quality still looking good but harvest could be over quickly after we are through the heat this week. Temps forecast to hit 35 C (95 F) this week. Still enough moisture in the ground, but on sandier soils irrigation a must. Fruit size is large to acceptable. Anything that had root rot earlier, is now dead or near death and fruit is shriveling. Lots of sunburn now on leaves and fruit.

Blueberries

- **Oregon**: So far the crop yields and quality have in general been very good. Now starting on the second Duke pick. Some of the first Duke picks were much heavier than expected in some fields, not leaving a lot for later picks. Bluecrop has started and looks excellent. The first Brigittas are coming in. Bluegold will start Wednesday. Looking at temperatures above 95 F this week.
- **Whatcom County (northern Washington)**: Duke harvest has started.
- **British Columbia**: Ripening has been very slow, but Duke and other early varieties started harvest this past weekend. Raspberries and blueberries will be fighting for space in processing plants. Bluecrop will speed up ripening as well with the warm weather. Due to the November cold which caused many floral buds to not develop fully there's a lack of fruiting laterals particularly in low lying, frost exposed fields and in vigorous plantings. This is VERY specific to location and grower. Some growers will have losses to fruit rot after all the wet weather during green berry stage.

Blackberries

- **Oregon processed**: Marions started July 5, not all growers or fields have started, most will by the middle of the week. Fruit quality has been good. The heat this week will take a toll--smaller fruit, sunburn and berries that won't come off. Boysens have started, no big picks yet, probably the end of the week. Quite a few problems with orange tortrix larvae contamination.

- **Oregon fresh:** Kotatas are at their peak and quality has been excellent but the heat should knock out fresh market quality for the next picks this week. Obsidian are finished. Haven't started Triple Crown yet.

Strawberries

- **Oregon/ SW Washington:** Harvest finished except some late June bearers and day neutrals for the fresh market.
- **Whatcom County (Northern Washington):** Harvest is nearly done.
- **British Columbia:** Harvest is nearing completion. Just late varieties and fruit size now dropping off rapidly. Heat will finish it off, and day neutrals will come on stream sooner.

Other Small Fruit Crops:

- **British Columbia cranberries:** Cranberry blossom proceeding well. Saw a few bogs on Vancouver Island that were just starting to bloom, a bit late.
- **Oregon currants:** Both white and Rovada red currants are being harvested.

Industry News

- **China free labeling:** [Click here](#) for an article on a food company planning to put a "China-Free" label on its products.
- **Building a better strawberry:** [Click here](#) for an news item about breeding strawberries for flavor and machine harvestability.
- **USDA 2006 Berry Crop Numbers:** [Click here](#) for the newly released USDA berry crop statistics.

Pest Alerts

- [Mites](#), raspberries. Hot weather throughout the region. Watch for mite build-ups.
- [Mites](#), strawberries. Hot weather throughout the region. Watch for mite build-ups.

New Pest Information

British Columbia Blueberry Commission IPM Newsletter

- The B.C. Blueberry Commission contracts with Carolyn Teasdale to produce a weekly IPM Grower Newsletter. It has timely, in depth information and photos on blueberry insects and diseases. [Click here](#) for the latest issue. (Any and all treatment recommendations should be viewed only as guidelines. Control options and pest dynamics vary between fields and regions).

Insects/Mites

- [Aphids/Scorch Virus](#): **northern blueberries.** Aphid populations continue to increase in many fields although many organic fields showed a decrease due to beneficial insect increases.
- [Orange Tortrix leafrollers](#): **southern caneberries.** Still receiving reports of higher than usual contaminant problems in blackberries.
- [Strawberry Crown Moth](#): [southern strawberries.](#) Trap numbers are still very high in sporadic strawberry and blackberry fields as adult emergence continues. This is the most effective window for control in strawberries.

Diseases

- **Armillaria Root Rot, B.C. blueberries: From Mark Sweeney with the B.C. Ministry of Ag:** "Our plant lab has recently diagnosed Armillaria crown rot in 4 young fields, all var. Duke. Symptoms appear on isolated plants throughout the field. The plants look like they have iron chlorosis from high pH, but rapidly decline and are dead the following season. Inspection of the crown area shows the typical mycelial fan under the bark. Also look for the presence of rhizomorphs, which look like blackened roots. Not sure why this is showing up now...Two of these fields were recently cleared of bush so it could have been carried on fir, alder or many other species. Other fields were not recently cleared. There is a possibility that it was carried in sawdust mulch." [Click here](#) to link to Michigan State's information and photos.
- [Blackberry \(Phragmidium\) Rust](#): **Evergreen blackberries:** We're seeing more active infections showing up in Evergreen blackberry fields. Hot, dry weather will minimize spread but some growers are applying preventative fungicides to minimize the risk to this year's crop.
- [Godronia Canker](#), **B.C. blueberries:** This disease has caused major losses, primarily in British Columbia, but could be occurring at higher levels than previously thought in Oregon and Washington (my suspicion-haven't gotten positive tests back yet). New fields are particularly susceptible but 'flags' (single branches that suddenly collapse and die) in older fields continue to show up. Remove from the field any affected branches/plants.
- **Viruses, blueberries:** [Shock virus](#) and [Scorch Virus](#) symptoms are rapidly declining as the plants put on new growth. Keep an eye out for late onset scorch symptoms with the heat this week. Contact [Sonja Ring](#), Research Coordinator for the B.C. Blueberry Council at 604-613-2133 for details of the Ministry of Ag free testing.

[Birds](#), **blueberries:** In Whatcom County, blueberries are coming on fast, lots of robins and starlings are starting to feed. Reports are that Methyl Anthranilate formulations are being effective in some fields in repelling starlings.

Ongoing Pest Information

(Click on blue, underlined pest name to link to further scouting information, photos, and control options)

Insects

- **Weevils: strawberries, raspberries, blueberries.** For more weevil information, click on these links: [Rough Strawberry Root Weevil](#), [Black Vine Root Weevils](#), [Strawberry Root Weevils](#).
- **Obliquebanded leafrollers:** blueberries, raspberries.
- **Raspberry Beetle:** northern raspberries.
- **Blueberry Gall Midge:** blueberries.
- **Redberry Mites:** Evergreen blackberries.

Diseases

- **Mummyberry,** blueberries:
- **Powdery Mildew,** strawberries.
- **Botrytis:** blueberries.
- **Botrytis:** raspberries.
- **Yellow Rust,** raspberries.
- **Alternaria Fruit Rot,** blueberries.
- **Anthrachnose Ripe Rot,** blueberries.
- **Cane and Leaf Rust,** blackberries.

Cropwork

- **Pay attention to new plantings** of all berries for weeds, water, insects, diseases and nutrient deficiencies.

Raspberries & blackberries:

- **Harvest ongoing** 1) Scout for potential crop contaminants. Treat as needed. 2) Scout for mites. 3) Scout for aphids. 4) Can treat for fruit mold if needed. 5) Scout for fruit disorders (e.g. crumbly fruit, dry cell) and determine cause.

Late ripening blackberries:

- 1) Can apply fungicides for fruit mold during bloom. 2) Scout for rust and treat as needed. 1) Can apply sulfur for Redberry Mite control. 2) Can apply fungicide for prevention of Blackberry Rust infections. 3) Scout for mites.

Blueberries:

- **Harvest ongoing throughout region** 1) Scout for fruit disease problems (e.g. Mummyberry, Botrytis, Alternaria, Anthracnose) & determine cause. 2) Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to confirm. 3) Can apply fungicides for fruit mold prevention. 4) Scout for weevil notching on lower leaves. 5) Scout for scale. 6) After petal fall, can treat for Alternaria and/or Anthracnose Fruit Rot. 7) Scout for Tip Blight symptoms and determine cause. 8) Implement controls to prevent bird-feeding damage.

Strawberries:

- **Harvest finished in SW Washington and Oregon. Ongoing in Northern Washington and British Columbia.** 1) Can treat for weevils and other insects. 2) Scout weak areas for root weevil larvae, Strawberry Crown Moth, root disease or soil problems. 3) Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to confirm. 4) Scout for weevil notching leaves. 5) Scout for aphids. 6) Scout for Two-Spotted Mites and Cyclamen Mites. 7) (southern growing areas) Put out pheromone traps for Strawberry Crown Moth. 8) Scout for spittlebugs. 9) After harvest allow fields to lie dormant for 3-4 weeks before renovating.