



July 17, 2007

[Event Calendar](#)

[Weather Forecast](#) by Rufus La Lone

[Photo of the Week](#): Sun Scalded caneberries.

[Small Fruit Cold Storage Report](#)

### **Farm Bill Action Alert**

[Click here for the information](#). The U.S. House of Representatives is writing the bill over the next three days. **Now is the time to read this and take action.** Things are not looking all that positive for berry crops/specialty crop interests. The old alliance of subsidized crops is holding strong. According to an [article in Sunday's Fresno Bee](#), "The politically vocal American Farm Bureau Federation ... supports (House panel chairman) Peterson's (D-Minn) stay-the-course approach to traditional subsidies."

### **Washington State Raspberry Root Rot Survey Results**

[Click here](#) for the survey results so far. [Click here](#) for an introduction to the survey and sampling guidelines. This survey, is being carried out to evaluate the effectiveness of newly implemented PCR testing techniques for detecting the presence of *Phytophthora fragariae* (our commonly assumed root rot causal agent) in raspberry plants in both commercial production fields and nursery planting stock. The Washington Red Raspberry Commission, Whatcom County and the Washington State Commission for Pesticide Registration are funding the survey.

### **Crop Reports**

#### **Blueberries**

- **Oregon:** Overall crop quality doesn't seem to have suffered much from last week's heat. Some softer fruit and some fruit that would have gone fresh went into processed. Especially borderline fresh quality varieties like Berkeley, Reka and Blue Ray. Duke and Bluecrop continue with very good quality and quantity. Blue Jay and Brigitta have started. Legacy is still a few days away.
- **Whatcom County (northern Washington):** Some young, dry and/or otherwise stressed fields were seriously affected by the heat but the overall crop still looks pretty good. Some Duke fields have already started machine harvesting but a lot will be starting later this week.
- **British Columbia:** Fruit burn is evident on some ripening and green fruit. Total fruit damage could be in the 5-10 % range. Sunburned leaves in some fields, especially on Elliots. Growers are looking to start machine pick on the Dukes by end on the week.

#### **Blackberries**

- **Oregon processed:** Marions are into the second pick with some fields into the third. The heat last week has left some sunburned fruit, reduced berry size and depressed the overall yield but quality is still pretty good. Present indications are that the Marion harvest, while good quality, is going to be below original projections for yields while Silvan, Kotata and Black Diamond all look to be having an excellent year for both quality and yields. Leafroller larvae contaminant problems evident the last couple of weeks have greatly improved.
- **Oregon fresh:** A couple of picks were lost to the mini-heat wave. Kotatas are well past peak. Triple Crown will be starting this week.

#### **Raspberries**

- **Oregon/Southwest Washington:** The Aurora research station reached a high of 103 this last Tuesday. Coming down into the mid 90's the next day. The heat finished some weaker fields. Other fields lost some fruit quantity and yield but otherwise look okay. Still some good fruit coming in but harvest is probably around three quarters finished.
- **Whatcom County (Northern Washington):** Most Meeker fields were just a week or so into harvest at the time the heat hit last Tuesday and Wednesday. A lot of fruit lost. There's a big difference in the amount of damage between vigorous, healthy, well-irrigated fields and older and/or drier fields. Many of the less vigorous fields might not get much (if any) more fruit picked where the more vigorous fields lost significant fruit but are now back into production.

- **British Columbia:** Considerable heat damage in raspberries due to last Tuesday and Wednesday's record heat and dry wind. Raspberries lost probably a whole pick - berries very hard to get off in the aftermath until just this weekend of cooler weather. Vigorous, bushy canes suffered less fruit damage but there was still considerable sun burning in the loop portion of the canes.

### **Strawberries**

- Processed harvest finished throughout region. Fresh, local harvest on day neutral varieties and some late ripening Northwest varieties continue.

### **Industry News**

- **Import Rejection Reports from the USDA:** [Click here](#) for a listing of imported product shipments, including fruits and vegetables that the USDA has rejected over the past year.
- **USDA Bee Colony Collapse Disorder Research Action Plan:** [Click here](#) for the newly released USDA response to, and analysis of, the recent problems with honeybee hive collapse.

### **New Pest Information**

#### **Insects**

- **[Orange Tortrix leafrollers](#):** **southern caneberries:** Evidence of new hatches is declining as fewer problems are being reported from processors.
- **[Black Vine Root Weevils](#),** **southern strawberries:** In one strawberry field in SW Washington, a migration of Black Vine adults was detected moving from an older, recently tilled under field into a new strawberry planting 20 feet away. Hundreds could be observed walking out of the old field into the adjoining raspberry field as well as the new strawberry field.

#### **Diseases**

- **[Blackberry \(Phragmidium\) Rust](#):** **Evergreen blackberries:** Increases of active infections continue to be found. With cool, wet weather this week, growers should evaluate the need for fungicide applications.
- **[Powdery Mildew](#),** **strawberries:** Some new plantings in the south are showing increases in powdery mildew symptoms.

### **Ongoing Pest Information**

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

#### **Insects**

- **[Aphids/Scorch Virus](#):** northern blueberries.
- **Strawberry Crown Moth:** [southern strawberries](#).
- **[Mites](#),** raspberries.
- **[Mites](#),** strawberries.
- **[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**

- **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 four young fields, all var. Duke..." [Click here](#) to link to Michigan State's information and photos.
- **[Godronia Canker](#),** blueberries.
- **Viruses, blueberries:** [Shock virus](#) , [Scorch Virus](#)
- **[Mummyberry](#),** blueberries.
- **[Botrytis](#):** blueberries.
- **[Botrytis](#):** raspberries.
- **[Yellow Rust](#),** raspberries.
- **[Alternaria Fruit Rot](#),** blueberries.
- **[Anthracnose Ripe Rot](#),** blueberries.
- **[Cane and Leaf Rust](#),** blackberries.

**[Birds](#),** blueberries

### **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) and 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) After harvest allow fields to lie dormant for 3-4 weeks before renovating.