



August 1, 2007

[Event Calendar](#)

[Weather Forecast](#) by Rufus La Lone

[Photos of the Week](#): Smartweed, a major problem weed in southern blueberry fields.

[Small Fruit Cold Storage Report](#)

## Crop Reports

### Blueberries

- **Oregon:** Bluecrop, Bluejay, Brigitta, Berkeley, Rubel, Legacy and Ozarkblue are all harvesting. Elliotts are also starting. A very good crop is coming in and the weather looks warm and dry for the next week.
- **Whatcom County (northern Washington):** Duke harvest is finally well underway with the crop looking to be good quality. The time difference between the Oregon/SW Washington harvest and the northern Washington/British Columbia harvest was much longer than usual this year. Usually its about 10 days to 2 weeks where this year it was at least three weeks.
- **British Columbia:** Most mechanically harvested Duke fields are through with the first round. The second round on the handpicked Duke fields and first hand pick of Bluecrop are on going. Quite a bit of mold due to previous sunburn followed by a week of rain. It was a pretty messy pick in many fields. Some berry splits on Bluecrop last week due to previous high moisture conditions. Quality is on upswing this week. Beautiful weather and moderate temperatures has meant berries are sizing well and poor quality fruit has been removed. A definite positive attitude change is in the air. Very good new vegetative growth in most fields so far which is a positive for next year.

### Blackberries

- **Oregon processed:** Still a few Marions coming in although quality and price are very poor. Hulls and Chesters are starting to come in. Evergreens are coloring with some black fruit. The earliest fields could pick in about a week.
- **Oregon fresh:** Light quantities of Navaho and Chester are coming in along with increasing amounts of Triple Crown. Quality is much improved over last week.

### Raspberries

- **Oregon/Southwest Washington:** The processed harvest is finished. Healthy, young fields returned a good quality crop and a pretty good return for growers although the poor market for raspberries over the past few years has reduced the overall acreage.
- **Whatcom County (Northern Washington):** Harvest is wrapping up. There looks to be quite a variation in quality and quantity of fruit. The older and weaker fields were heavily impacted by the heat wave in mid-July and never recovered.
- **British Columbia:** Harvest winding down this week and should be finished by the weekend. The stronger fields came back into production after the heat of a couple of weeks ago and, while down some in yield, have produced pretty well. Quality is off since the rains of July 14-23. A lot of moldy berries and concern for botrytis infection on primocanes. Growers might want to consider an immediate post-harvest spray of fungicide for cane and botrytis blight.

## Industry News

- **USDA Purchase Offer for Frozen Red Seedless Raspberry Puree:** [Click here](#). Due 1:00 p.m. (CT), Aug. 8.
- **2007 California Blueberry Production:** Total-16.5 million lbs (14.5 million fresh, 2 million processing). Up 6 million over 2006 crop.
- **Western Sustainable Agriculture Working Group:** This is a non-profit group that "connects grassroots promoters of sustainable agriculture in the west to each other and to the nation." [Click ere](#) for their July newsletter.
- **Serbian Labor Dynamics:** [Click here](#) for an article entitled, "**Bosnians, Romanians take jobs scorned by Serbs**" One quote: "... no villagers want to come and pick raspberries, although the payment is \$20 a day plus food and

lodging," said Mile Vasiljevic from the central Serbian town Valjevo. "So we have people from Bosnia and Romania working here; \$20 a day is not small money for them."

## **New Pest Information**

**British Columbia Blueberry Commission IPM Monitoring Report:** [Click here for the 7/26/07 report](#) on the status of B.C. blueberry pests and diseases.

### **Weeds**

- **Smartweed, southern blueberries:** This could be the first weed to be included in the Update. Smartweed has been increasing the last couple of years in southern growing area blueberry fields and this year has become a major issue that the standard herbicide programs aren't adequately addressing. I believe the species we're seeing is *Polygonum punctatum* [Click here for image](#) . Any feedback? Is this the right species? [Click here](#) to comment.

## **Ongoing Pest Information**

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

### **Insects**

- [Blueberry Gall Midge](#), blueberries.
- Fall webworm (tent caterpillars), blueberries: [Click here](#) for a general information sheet.
- [Aphids/Scorch Virus](#): northern blueberries.
- [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.
- [Redberry Mites](#): Evergreen blackberries.

### **Diseases**

- [Anthracnose Ripe Rot](#), blueberries.
- [Cane Blight](#), raspberries.
- Armillaria Root Rot, B.C. blueberries: [Click here](#) to link to Michigan State's information and photos.
- [Blackberry \(Phragmidium\) Rust](#): Evergreen blackberries.
- [Powdery Mildew](#), strawberries.
- [Godronia Canker](#), blueberries.
- Viruses, blueberries: [Shock virus](#) , [Scorch Virus](#)
- [Mummyberry](#), blueberries.
- [Botrytis](#): blueberries.
- [Botrytis](#): raspberries.
- [Yellow Rust](#), raspberries.
- [Alternaria Fruit Rot](#), blueberries.
- [Cane and Leaf Rust](#), blackberries.

[Birds](#), blueberries

## **Cropwork**

### **Tissue analysis & soil testing**

- **Post harvest** is the best time to do most soil and leaf testing for nutrient management.
- **In blueberries**, tissue testing and pH monitoring are recommended. [Click Here](#) to view OSU's Blueberry Nutrient (and testing) Guidelines.
- **In caneberries**, while annual soil testing has been the industry norm, Oregon State's recently updated nutritional guide recommends annual leaf testing with soil tests every few years. [Click Here](#) to view OSU's Caneberry Nutrient (and testing) Guidelines.

### **Raspberries & blackberries:**

- **Harvest finishing up on raspberries and most varieties of blackberries** 1) After harvest, can treat for cane blight and/or botrytis cane infections. 2) 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) Scout for rust and treat as needed. 2) Scout for mites. 3) Scout for potential crop contaminants. Treat as needed.

### **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) Scout for weevil notching on lower leaves. 4) Implement controls to prevent bird-feeding damage.

**Strawberries:**

- **Harvest finished.** 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) Scout for Powdery Mildew and treat as needed. 8) After harvest allow fields to lie dormant for 3-4 weeks before renovating.