



June 17, 2008

[Photos of the Week](#): Botrytis symptoms in blueberries.

[Small Fruit Cold Storage Report](#)

[Upcoming Meetings](#) (a calendar of small fruit related events)

[The Weather Cafe](#) by Rufus La Lone

Crop Reports

Editor's note: I leave the wording of these regional reports as close to the contributors' original wording as possible to give an accurate impression of their perceptions. They should be interpreted only as an informed individual's point of view at a particular point in the season.

Blueberries

- **British Columbia:** (6/17) Frost damage doesn't seem to be severe except for isolated locations. However, we're now seeing green berries dropping off with each pass of the tractor, as they have not been pollinated. The rain and cold during most varieties' bloom period was enough to keep bees at home and prevented proper pollination. This does not bode well for plants making up for the previous damage incurred. Growers who are using every small window of opportunity to protect blooms with fungicides are now seeing very little rot; however, no matter what, there is a bit of rot in the clusters now.
- **Northern Washington, Mount Vernon:** (6/14) Blueberries are late but not as late as the raspberries; so, there is going to be a lot of overlap. This makes it tougher on the crews to hand pick, tougher on the processing plant for logistics of running the two crops, and tougher on the grower trying to coordinate everything.
- **Eastern Washington:** (6/17) Some Dukes are being picked this week. More starting up next week.
- **Oregon:** (6/10) As the green berries are sizing there's more evidence of botrytis green fruit rot, but in general the crop is in good shape. Looking to start picking Duke right around the fourth of July.

Strawberries

- **British Columbia:** (6/17) First harvest in the Eastern most parts of the Fraser Valley started on Monday 16 June, a new all time record late. There'll likely be no opening of the main fruit stands this weekend as we don't have enough ripe fruit. Weevil damage now obvious, but generally, not many other problems. The fungicides are so far holding off anything nasty, although I suspect when we see more ripe fruit, molds will ensue. It looks like there's a further push of fruit and growers away from the processed market into fresh this year.
- **Northern Washington, Lynden:** (6/17) it's still too cool. We're seeing green rot in the strawberries, still few mites and aphids with what looks like powdery mildew coming on and weevils chowing down.
- **Northern Washington, Mount Vernon:** (6/14) First nice day in a while was Friday (6/11). We had 15/100 of an inch out of the rain gauge Friday morning, but it finally cleared by noon. I think we may all see the first time strawberries start **and** finish late. From past experience, it hasn't mattered when you start strawberries, you finish at the same time. This will be the year that is the exception that makes it the rule!!!
- **Oregon/SW Washington:** (6/17) Harvest is ongoing. There are some reports of fruit size and quantity dropping off a lot from the first to second pick. Some suspected leather rot symptoms but so far pretty good fruit quality. While the potential for fruit mold is high, the present dry, cool conditions have slowed down ripening and allowed pickers to keep up with the harvest.

Raspberries

- **British Columbia:** (6/17) Laterals have expanded enough to hide about 20-30 percent loss of laterals from cane diseases in the fall. Also, it is now very clear that the fields that grew small laterals out in November already, have lost way too many buds. If we figure in that the plants can compensate for up to 30% of loss, I doubt it's going to be too traumatic in terms of overall yields. The earlier blooms during rain are producing crumbly fruit from a lack of pollination. That should be gone with a few dry days now coming.
- **Northern Washington, Lynden:** (6/13) Laterals are still pushing a little in spite of bloom. No widespread problems, but we need sun and heat units. It looks like harvest will start around July 12?? Wow.
- **Northern Washington, Mount Vernon:** (6/14): Very late as well with a less-than-outstanding crop on the way.

- **Oregon/SW Washington:** (6/10) The first red Meekers are showing up. Not that they're all that edible but definitely a good sign. Still figure on harvest starting around July 1. Very slow bloom, but hard to say if that will effect the crop. Laterals are shorter than usual but with good pollination and fruit formation. Rust is a problem in a few fields. It's going to be a busy July in western Oregon with raspberries, strawberries, blueberries and blackberries all coming in.

Blackberries

- **Oregon:** (6/17)
 - **Fresh:** Obsidian and Siskiyou, the earliest fresh varieties, should start near the end of June and the first of July. Chester fields are at less than 10% bloom and (as with everything) very late.
 - **Processed:** It been a good weather weak for bees and pollination. Pretty much still on course to start Marions around the middle of July with early varieties about a week before that. The mild weather has minimized the stress on the fields. Evergreens are less than 10% bloom.

New & improved Industry Websites

- **Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission:** [Click here](#). The site has been totally redesigned. Very original and a lot easier to navigate.
- **Washington Red Raspberry Commission promotion/public information site:** [Click here](#). The commission has put up this site separate from the commission's site for disseminating information on health benefits, products available, recipes and related red raspberry materials. Nice, clean look and image.
- **Oregon Blueberry Farms and Nursery:** [Click here](#). This is an easy to use and easy to navigate site from one of our largest suppliers of blueberry nursery stock.

Industry News

- **Chilly weather delays local strawberry harvest:** [Click here](#) for this June 13 article in *The Olympian*.
- **Wet, cold weather delays fruit, weed crops across British Columbia:** [Click here](#) for this article in *The Canadian Press*. Don't think I've seen an update on the marijuana crop before.

Regional Updates

- **B.C. Blueberry Council IPM newsletter for June 12:** [Click here](#).
- **Michigan State Fruit CAT Alert for June 16:** [Click here](#). Good articles on blueberry irrigation and blueberry mid season weed control options.
- **MSU Blueberry IPM Update for June 17:** [Click here](#), and then click on the latest report.
- **New Jersey Blueberry Bulletin for June 9:** [Click here](#) and then click on the June 9th bulletin.

New Pest Information

Diseases

- **Blueberry Fungal Disease Alert:** All west side regions are seeing increased green fruit mold caused by botrytis. Plants are also vulnerable right now to alternaria and anthracnose infections although the symptoms of these diseases won't be seen until later. Stay on top of preventative fungicide applications.
[Alternaria Fruit Rot](#), [Anthracnose Ripe Rot](#), [Botrytis](#)
- **Raspberry and blackberry Fungal Disease Alert:** As in blueberries, raspberries and blackberries are also at high risk of fungal disease problems. Right now yellow rust is the most visible disease in raspberries, but the weather is very conducive to botrytis infections of open blooms. The disease then stays dormant until the fruit starts ripening. Stay on top of fungicide applications on all caneberries to minimize fruit mold issues.
[Yellow rust](#), [Botrytis](#), [Blackberry rust](#)

Insects

- **[Orange Tortrix leafrollers](#), southern caneberries:** We're close to our problem Orange tortrix hatch. It's recommended to add Bt or Confirm to fungicide applications for leafroller management.
- **[Obliquebanded leafrollers](#), northern blueberries:** Larvae are reported at high levels in many British Columbia fields.
- **[Redberry Mites](#), late ripening blackberries:** Sulfur applications can go on now for preventing mites infestations and loss of berries later. Chester and Evergreen blackberries are most at risk.

On-going Pest Information

Insects

- **[Aphids](#), northern blueberries.**
- **Twospotted Mites, [Strawberries](#), [Raspberries](#).**
- **[Weevils](#), strawberries, blueberries:** For more weevil information, click on these links: [rough strawberry root weevil](#), [black vine root weevils](#), [strawberry root weevils](#).
- **[Strawberry Crown Moth](#), [southern strawberries](#) and [caneberries](#):**
- **[Raspberry Beetle](#), northern raspberries.**
- **[Blueberry Gall Midge](#), blueberries.**

Diseases

- [Shock virus](#), blueberries.
- [Scorch Virus](#), northern blueberries.
- [Phytophthora Root Rot](#) raspberries.
- **Unidentified virus-like symptoms, blueberries: Free testing**
 - In **Washington and Oregon**, [Bob Martin](#) (USDA small fruit virologist) (541) 738-4041.
 - In **British Columbia**, contact [Sonja Ring](#) (BC Blueberry Council's research coordinator) 604-613-2133.
- [Cane and Leaf Rust](#), blackberries.
- [Purple Blotch](#), blackberries.
- [Raspberry Bushy Dwarf virus](#), Marionberries.
- [Phytophthora root rot](#), raspberries.
- [Mummyberry](#), blueberries.

Cropwork

All crops

- Weed control.

Blueberries

- Scout for leafrollers and treat as needed.
- Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to confirm.
- Scout for aphids.
- Scout for weevil notching.
- During bloom, apply fungicide for fruit mold control.
- After petal fall treat for alternaria and/or anthracnose ripe rot as needed.

Blackberries

- Scout for rust and treat as needed.
- Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to confirm.
- Bring in bees around 10% bloom.
- During bloom, apply fungicide for fruit mold control.

Raspberries

- Apply fertilizer as needed.
- Scout for rust and treat as needed.
- Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to confirm.
- Apply fungicide for fruit mold control starting at 10% bloom.

Strawberries

- Check weak areas for root weevil larvae, strawberry crown borers and/or root disease problems.
- Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to confirm.
- Watch for weevil notching and plan for weevil management if needed.
- Put out pheromone traps for strawberry crown moth in southern fields.