

Small Fruit Update



June 4, 2008

[Photos of the Week](#): Strawberry Crown Moth larva (on left) & adult.

[Small Fruit Cold Storage Report](#)

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

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

Crop Development

Blackberries

- **Oregon:** A rough, consensus estimate would put expected Marion yields down about 25-30%. There are a lot of variables that effect overall crop totals such as new acres and harvest weather so the value of such estimates are limited. The main point would be that it isn't going to be a record setting year for Marions or blackberries in general. While newer fields of all varieties as well as most Kotata and Black Diamond fields look very good, patchy Marion and Silvan fields will most likely keep down overall crop totals. Evergreens started bloom around May 30th in 2007, Fields are over a week from starting bloom this year.

Blueberries

- **Lynden, Washington:** Cool weather has slowed bloom but overall crop still looks very good. Given the weather, pollination has been a concern but so far looks good.
- **Eastern Washington:** Crop is still about a week later than last year. Quality and yields still look very good.
- **British Columbia:** Excellent fruit set thus far; however, Delta and Cloverdale have spotty frost damage, predominantly in Bluecrop. The rest of the Fraser Valley seems to have no major damage, perhaps up to 30% in some extreme cases, loss of blooms, which the plants will likely completely compensate for with fruit weight. Bees are very active and pollination seems to proceed nicely. Native bumble bees seem to be abundant in all regions.
- **Oregon:** Bloom is all but finished. Just a few Elliott fields with last blooms to go. Pollination looks to have been very good to excellent. The cool, wet weather last week and forecast for this coming week keeps down plant stress and should make for great fruit sizing. SW Washington and Oregon crop looks excellent. Running about 10 days behind last year.

Strawberries

- **Northern Washington, Lynden:** Bloom is nearly over. Crop growth and color is very good but there doesn't seem to be as heavy a crop load as could be expected. Late...
- **Northern Washington, Mt. Vernon:** Picked a few Sweet Charlies on black plastic late last week, both under tunnel and outside. They are coming on strong this week, and we may get some other varieties, as well.
- **Oregon/SW Washington:** A few fresh market fields will start picking this week. A few matted row Honeoye berries are ripe. The main Totem fields still looking to begin somewhere around June 15. Tillamook are running even later. Many fields don't seem to have the usual number of fruit trusses even though the plants look great.
- **British Columbia:** The start of strawberry processing season and opening of fresh market stands will be around June 20th, which is equal to 2002, when we were also this late. The new Stolo variety is looking fine in bloom and now green fruit. Hopefully next year we will have more plants to put in the ground.

Raspberries

- **British Columbia:** Raspberry bloom is slowly starting to open. It's very important to get the bees in now and keep up with fungicides, as we're into moist weather after two weeks of mainly dry.
- **Lynden, Washington:** Really short laterals in the older fields, some bud damage may be a result of too aggressive harvesting last year. Stronger fields have good crop potential. Bees are getting in this week as bloom is right around 10%.
- **Oregon/SW Washington:** Mild, showery weather forecast for the next couple of weeks is going to minimize stress and stretch out the bloom. Probably around 25% bloom right now with pretty good bee activity in most fields. The weather also increases the odds of fungal disease problems. Managing yellow rust and potential fruit mold problems are primary concern. Good crop potential. The mild weather allowed lateral growth to push more than expected.

Strawberry Field Days

- **June 11—Oregon State University:** 2 pm at the North Willamette Research and Extension Center in Aurora. It will start with a discussion of the ARS-USDA/OSU Cooperative breeding program strawberry selections— Look for the group out in the field. For directions or information, contact the station at 503-678-1264 or [click here](#).
- **June 12—Washington State University:** 10-noon at the Puyallup Research and Extension Station's field. This will be an opportunity to see some of the most promising new WSU selections (such as WSU 2793 and WSU 2833). It is also an opportunity to discuss directions for strawberry research. Contact Dr. Pat Moore for more information. Email: moorepp@wsu.edu, phone: 253-445-4525.

Regional Blueberry Newsletters

- **B.C. Blueberry Council IPM newsletter for 5/29:** [Click here](#).
- **New Jersey Blueberry Bulletin for May 26:** [Click here](#) and then click on the latest issue. Along with good information on New Jersey blueberries, it has an article on **Insect Management in Organic Blueberries**.
- **Michigan Blueberry IPM Update for June 3:** [Click here](#) and then click on the latest report.

Industry News

- **J.M. Smucker Company & Procter & Gamble Reach Agreement to Merge Folgers into The Smucker Company:** [Click here](#). This isn't directly a berry industry story. Just seems like Smucker has sure been busy this year...
- **Taking the Fast Plane to China:** [Click here](#). Click here. This is a large (46 pages), in-depth analysis of the potential for increasing the exports of fresh fruit and vegetables to China. It focuses on California but has a lot of information for any potential exporter.

Irrigation Management:

- From WSU berry specialist Tom Walters—"This was the first week that blueberry and raspberry ET substantially outstripped rainfall. Here in Mount Vernon, blueberries used about 0.3" more than rainfall, and raspberries used about 0.6" more than rainfall. There is still plenty of moisture in the soil, but it is time to check out irrigation systems and make sure lines are clean and flushed, and that pressures are uniform."

New Pest Information

Diseases

- **[Alternaria Fruit Rot](#), blueberries.** Weather conditions are conducive for infection. Stay on top of control applications.
- **[Anthracnose Ripe Rot](#), blueberries:** Weather conditions are conducive for infection. Stay on top of control applications.
- **[Yellow rust](#), raspberries:** The later stage of rust is now showing up in southern fields. Conditions are prime for continuing spread.
- **[Shock virus](#), blueberries:** Symptoms are very prevalent in fields right now.
- **[Scorch Virus](#), northern blueberries:** Now is a very good time for checking fields for symptoms and flagging infected plants for removal.

On-going Pest Information

Insects

- **[Obliquebanded leafrollers](#), northern blueberries.**
- **[Aphids](#), northern blueberries.**
- **Twospotted Mites, [Strawberries](#), [Raspberries](#).**
- **[Weevils](#), strawberries:** 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.**
- **[Azalea Bark Scale](#), southern blueberries.**
- **[Orange Tortrix leafrollers](#), southern caneberries.**
- **[Winter moth/ Bruce span worm](#), blueberries.**
- **[Blueberry Gall Midge](#).**

Diseases

- **[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: **Free testing** to confirm that *P. fragariae* var. *rubi* is the cause of the dieback, growers in Washington State can have samples pulled and tested for free. Contact [Colleen Burrows](#), Whatcom County WSU Extension IPM coordinator (360) 392-1926.
- [Mummyberry](#), blueberries.
- [Blackberry rust](#), Evergreen blackberries.

Cropwork

All crops

- Weed control.

Blueberries

- Apply fertilizer.
- Can apply mummyberry control materials and/or take other mummyberry management actions until bloom is ended.
- North--Scout for span worms/winter moth, 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

- Apply fertilizer.
- Scout for rust and treat as needed.
- Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to confirm.
- Bring in bees around 10% bloom.
- Apply fungicide for fruit mold control starting at 10% bloom.
- Marionberries—treat for purple blotch in fields cropped every year as needed.

Raspberries

- Apply fertilizer as needed.
- Scout for rust and treat as needed.
- Can apply phosphite material for root rot control.
- Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to confirm.
- Bring in bees around 10% bloom.
- 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.
- Can apply phosphite material for root rot control.
- Apply fungicide for fruit mold control starting at 10% bloom.
- Put out pheromone traps for strawberry crown moth in southern fields.