



July 15, 2008

[Small Fruit Cold Storage Report](#)

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

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

Crop Reports

Raspberries

- **British Columbia:** (7/15) The first machine picks are underway in Meeker. Quality is good with the exception of the crumbly fruit from the cold/wet first bloom pollination period. It still looks to be a quick pick once the fruit starts to come off. Also a lot of pre-mature yellowing going on in the fruiting canes. Some outstanding Chemainus and Saanich, Cascade Bounty nicely holding up to any rot. Still dry and irrigation is essential now. Thus far there's very little fruit rot.
- **Northern Washington, Lynden:** (7/10) Harvest is starting off slowly. Fields stunned by the heat wave look better, maybe because we have more primocanes, and the first pick knocked off a lot of dead leaves? Anyway the fruit is developing nicely in spite of the damage, so far.
- **Oregon/SW Washington:** (7/15)
 - **Black raspberries:** Harvest is ongoing.
 - **Red raspberries:** Machine and hand harvest both continuing with good quality. The cooler weather expected this week should help with firming up and holding the fruit. No mold issues at all. Yields are pretty good, a little better than expected.

Blueberries

- **British Columbia:** (7/15) Some hand picking of blueberries is happening. By the weekend and early next week a lot more Dukes will pick as they are bluing quickly with the good weather. Next week just about all early varieties will be picking. Mid-season varieties still not even close. Have just seen the odd berry starting to turn. Lots of aphids now with the moderate, dry weather. There is incredible vegetative growth out there. Growers might want to back off on any late fertilization as they could end up with excessive cane growth that could impede ripening on varieties like Bluecrop.
- **Northern Washington, Lynden:** (7/10) Fruit looks real good, although smaller size than normal. Nice warm days, 70-80 degrees, but cool nights delaying ripening a bit. Still hoping for the end of July for beginning of machine harvest.
- **Northern Washington, Mount Vernon:** (7/13) Birds are here, and that usually means the picking is not too far away. Water the biggest issue again, but now, instead of trying to pump it out of the fields....trying to get enough back into them.
- **Oregon/SW Washington:** (7/15) Duke handpicking is still going on with some fields just getting started. Others have started machine picking Duke. Some fields won't have a heavy second pick. Size is all over the board but generally down and tonnage looks like it'll be down some also. The first hand picked Bluecrop have just started. The heat has caused some softness and holding issues especially in Reka and Earliblue but not too bad overall.

Blackberries

- **Oregon:** (7/15) Looks like the heat this last week has affected some of the red drupelets in ripening fruit causing them to soften and collapse before fully coloring. Both Marion and Kotata have been reported to have the problem. Could be in others also.
 - **Fresh:** Obsidian and Metiolus continue to come in strong. Kotatas will start this week. Fruit size is a problem.
 - **Process:** Silvans and Black Diamond are coming in. Marion and Kotatas have just started and will get into full swing over the next couple of days.

Strawberries

- **British Columbia:** (7/10) Renovations have started. A new cultivar release from Ag Canada is scheduled for February 2009. It's an early ripening cultivar that should complement Stolo. The first ever bearing fruit will come in about 2 weeks off of the freshly planted acreages.

- **Northern Washington, Lynden:** (7/10) Strawberries all but over, renovating has started. It was a great harvest season this year, but glad it's over.
- **Oregon/SW Washington:** (7/15) Processed harvest is finished and renovations are in progress. Albion and other fresh market cultivars are still picking with very good quality.

Diagnostic Labs

(Don't guess, get it tested...)

- **WSU Plant and Insect diagnostic lab's website:** [Click here.](#)
- **OSU Plant Clinic's website and information:** [Click here.](#)
- **List of public and private analytical labs and consultants serving Agriculture in the PNW:** [Click here.](#)

Industry News

- **Mechanical strawberry harvester?:** [Click here](#) for this article in the *Ventura County Star*.
- **'V45' Blueberry harvester moves south:**
 - [Click here](#) for this *NewsGuide.us* article about a different blueberry harvester design that's being tested to pick fresh quality Rabbiteye blueberries.
 - [Click here](#) for a 9 page PDF file report on this harvester.
- **New Washington Red Raspberry Commission Website Video:** [Click here](#) to go to the WRRC website. Then click on the home page video—a quick, fun view of mechanical harvesting with a musical soundtrack!

Industry Event News

- **July 14-16 –2008: The 9th International Vaccinium Symposium** will be held at Oregon State University in Corvallis. Any growers who would like to attend a day of sessions at the 9th International Vaccinium Symposium can do so by registering on the day they wish to attend. The day rate for Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, (July 14-16) is \$125 per day (not including dinners). A program outline can be viewed at the web site: [Click here.](#)
- **July 23 –WSU Raspberry mechanical harvesting trial open house** at the Randy Honcoop farm, Lynden, WA 2-4 PM For information/directions contact Pat Moore, WSU Raspberry and Strawberry Breeder, 253-445-4525 moorepp@wsu.edu

Regional Updates

- **B.C. Blueberry Council IPM newsletter for July 10:** [Click here.](#)
- **New Jersey Blueberry Bulletin for July 7:** [Click here](#), and then click on July 7.

New Pest Information

Birds, Research Update: Karen Steensma, with Trinity Western University (TWU) and Steensma Dairy, is researching protocols for using and enhancing the populations of Kestrels for bird management in blueberries. [Click here](#) for recent information posted on the Whatcom Farm Friends website.

On-going Pest Information

Insects

- **Alert: Yellow mites, northern raspberries:** High pressure is still reported from this early season mite.
- **Alert: Twospotted Mites, Raspberries:** Same as for the yellow mite...
- **Alert: Orange Tortrix leafrollers, southern caneberries:** As blackberry harvest gets into full swing this week—watch these populations closely! Growers are advised to treat as needed to prevent major fruit contaminant problems.
- **Strawberry Crown Moth, southern strawberries:** SCM adults are now being caught in high numbers in many SW Washington strawberry fields.
- **Aphids, blueberries:** Aphid populations are still present at high levels in many 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.
- **Obliquebanded leafrollers, northern blueberries**
- **Twospotted Mites, Strawberries.**
- **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 caneberries.**
- **Blueberry Gall Midge, blueberries.**

Diseases

- **Blueberry fungal diseases:** [Alternaria Fruit Rot](#), [Anthracnose Ripe Rot](#), [Botrytis](#), [Mummyberry](#).
- **Blueberry virus diseases:** [Shock virus](#), [Scorch Virus](#).
- **Raspberry and blackberry fungal diseases:** [Yellow rust](#), [Botrytis](#), [Blackberry rust](#), [Cane and Leaf Rust](#), [Phytophthora Root Rot](#), [Purple Blotch](#).

- **Raspberry and blackberry virus diseases:** Raspberry Bushy Dwarf virus, [Raspberries](#), [Marionberries](#).

Cropwork

All crops

- Pay attention to new plantings of all berries for weeds, water, insects, diseases and nutrient deficiencies.
- Weed control.
- Maintain adequate soil moisture.

Blueberries—Harvest ongoing in the south and Eastern Washington.

- Bird damage management.
- Scout for fruit disease problems (e.g. Mummyberry, Botrytis, Alternaria, Anthracnose) & determine cause.
- 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.

Blackberries—Harvest ongoing in the south.

- Scout for potential crop contaminants. Treat as needed.
- Scout for rust and treat as needed.
- Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to confirm.
- Can treat for fruit mold if needed.
- Can apply sulfur for redberry mite control.

Raspberries—Harvest ongoing in the south.

- Scout for potential crop contaminants. Treat as needed.
- Scout for fruit disorders (e.g. crumbly fruit, dry cell) and determine cause.
- Scout for rust and treat as needed.
- Scout for mites and treat as needed.
- Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to confirm.
- Can treat for fruit mold if needed.

Strawberries—Processed harvest finished up in all areas.

- Check weak areas for root weevil larvae, strawberry crown borers and/or root disease problems.
- Scout for Two-Spotted Mites and Cyclamen Mites.
- Watch for weevil notching and plan for weevil management if needed.
- Put out pheromone traps for strawberry crown moth in southern fields.
- After harvest, allow field to lie dormant for 3-4 weeks before mowing, watering and fertilizing.