



July 2, 2008

[Photos of the Week](#): Mites now being seen in northern raspberry fields: [yellow mites](#) [2 spotted mites](#)

[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:** (7/2) Raspberries are now into Malahat only, weak fields of other varieties are showing the first few ripe ones at reduced size. While plants and laterals have nicely expanded, the missing laterals are still not there and crop is a touch lighter than it could have been. Everything that has root rot is showing now. Some pretty serious mite issues building in some raspberry fields over the weekend with the advent of hot weather. Some control measures had taken place in the previous week or so but mainly on mite eggs, as we're lacking a new motile miticide at present for pre-harvest. The hot weather may return next week and this could pose some increasing concerns.
- **Northern Washington, Lynden:** (6/20) Mites along with what is being speculated about as an undiagnosed 'mildew' problem have many fields looking faded and stressed, and the weekend heat added to that look. Fields have a lighter than average crop load. However, still a reasonable crop potential in the fields but seems a bit 'fragile'. It'd be great to get into harvest. Fruit is now coloring.
- **Oregon/SW Washington:** (7/1) A few growers started machine picking Meekers Saturday, some didn't have enough and quit while others are getting enough to keep going. Good size and quality but nothing to brag about. The rest of the growers will start mid week on the Meekers. Cohos will probably be closer to the end of next week. Some sunburn from the 100 degree day over the weekend but not too bad.

Blackberries

- **Oregon:** (6/28)
 - **Process:** Black Diamonds have a little color and will start machine harvest around July 7 along with Silvans. Marions look like they will start mid July. Fruit size is looking small and as a result even the "good" fields will fall a little short of yield expectations.
 - **Fresh:** Obsidian, Metiolus and Siskiyou have started, but the weekend heat pushed most of the first pick into the processed market. With cooler temperatures quality is improving.

Blueberries

- **British Columbia:** (7/1) Poor pollination will be a deciding issue in this year's crop size on the key varieties like Bluecrop. Also a little leaf scorching due to the sun and heat intensity of the weekend. No apparent fruit issues though.
- **Eastern Washington:** (7/1) Hot weather (over 100 with wind) over the weekend doesn't seem to have impacted the crop too much. Dukes are a week into harvest with good quality fruit and good yields.
- **Northern Washington, Mount Vernon:** (6/27) Starting to show a little color, mostly Reka, but all varieties have along with it: botrytis, aphids, and rodent stress. Oh my...
- **Northern Washington, Lynden:** (7/1) Weekend heat wave has pushed things along. Near 90 temperatures and no cloud cover has sunburned some leaves. Most growers have cleaned up worms and aphids and are just waiting on sizing and ripening. Doesn't look like a heavy crop like last year, too much shock virus, blight, frost, mummyberry. Lower temps are welcome for the next ten days. Looks like harvest will not start till late July.
- **Oregon:** (7/1) Earliblue has started coming in. The first Dukes in the mid valley will start tomorrow with much more starting on Saturday, 7/5. Fruit is not sizing real well but overall quality is good with average yields expected. Heavy first picks are likely with later ripening more spread out.

Strawberries

- **British Columbia:** (6/26) Strawberry harvest is proceeding nicely; Stolo and Totem are now being harvested after some nice harvests of Puget Reliance earlier. Very few growers are complaining; most welcome the sudden burst of fruit. Amazingly little rot noted.

- **Northern Washington, Lynden:** (7/1) Started processed harvest this last Saturday. The heat did not improve the quality. Crop looks like it'll be light.
- **Northern Washington, Mount Vernon:** (6/27) Strawberries started this last weekend in force. It looks like they'll bunch, having things like Hood, Puget Reliance, Shuksan, and Totem, all coming at once.
- **Oregon/SW Washington:** (7/1) Into the third pick on most fields. Quality was great up until the weekend heat. Firmness and berry size took a big hit. Harvest is on the downside with many fields already finished. While some fields got very good yields many others are well below average.

Industry News

- **UK Berry Market grew 14% this last year:** [Click here](#) for this *Food Processing News* article.

Industry Event News

Field Days at Oregon State NWREC, Aurora

- **Wednesday, July 2 –Caneberry Open House,** 1 PM, "Please join us for an update of caneberry research and breeding programs at the NWREC. Meet us near the red raspberry plot on the SW section of the farm to hear about "Irrigation system effects on yield and root rot in raspberry" (Dr. Dave Bryla, USDA-ARS). We will also provide a summary of blackberry research at the NWREC (Dr. Bernadine Strik), pesticide registration update (Joe DeFrancesco) and walk the caneberry breeding plots (Dr. Chad Finn, USDA-ARS)".-- Bernadine Strik, Berry Crops Research Leader, NWREC (strikb@hort.oregonstate.edu ,503-678-1264 x 110)
- **Tuesday, July 8 –Blueberry Field Day,** 1 PM, OSU NWREC, Aurora, "You are invited to attend Blueberry Field Day at NWREC. The program has been designed to highlight our research and education programs. I encourage you to come and see our trials, learn more about on-going projects and taste some cultivars and advanced selections"-- Bernadine Strik, Berry Crops Research Leader, NWREC [Click here](#) for the agenda. (strikb@hort.oregonstate.edu ,503-678-1264 x 110)

Field Day at PARC Agassiz Abbotsford Farm

- **Thursday, July 10 –Berry Field Day,** 3-5 PM, 510 Clearbrook Road, Abbotsford. "See the latest released cultivars & potential selections: Strawberries (Stolo), Raspberries, (Chemainus, Saanich, Nanoose), Blueberries (Cultivar evaluations) and get updates on research, industry news and grower trials."—Chaim Kempler, Research Scientist, Fruit Breeding, Pacific Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. (Kempler@agr.gc.ca, 604-796-2716)

WSU Raspberry mechanical harvesting trial open house

- **Wednesday, July 23 –**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 June26:** [Click here.](#)
- **MSU Blueberry IPM Update for July 1:** [Click here.](#)

New Pest Information

Insects

- **Alert: Yellow mites, northern raspberries:** Many northern Washington and British Columbia fields are seeing very high pressure from this early season mite.
- **Alert: Twospotted Mites, Raspberries:** A serious outbreak of two-spotted spider mites has developed in the Abbotsford area this past week. This has necessitated some control measures for both motiles and significant egg numbers. This has been a building issue all spring which is odd considering the cool, damp conditions.
- **Alert: Orange Tortrix leafrollers, southern caneberries:** Very small orange tortrix larvae are now being recovered from many raspberry and blackberry fields in SW Washington and Oregon. Growers are advised to monitor closely and treat as needed to prevent major fruit contaminant problems.
- **Alert: Strawberry Crown Moth, southern strawberries:** SCM adults are now being caught in high numbers in many SW Washington strawberry fields. The most effective control application timing is closely tied to this hatch. Fields with populations of SCM should be treated between 10 and 14 days of first emergence and again 10-14 days late (mid-July and again late July).
- **Aphids, blueberries:** Aphid populations continue to increase in many fields.

On-going Pest Information

Birds in blueberries: [Click here](#) for an interim bird control good management practices document posted on the Whatcom Farm Friends website.

Insects

- **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:** Larvae and pupae are reported at high levels in many British Columbia fields.
- **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](#).
- **Raspberry Beetle**, northern raspberries.
- **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

- 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.
- During bloom, apply fungicide for fruit mold control.
- Can apply sulfur for redberry mite control.
- Plan for insect harvest contaminant management.

Raspberries

- 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.
- Apply fungicide for fruit mold control.
- Plan for insect harvest contaminant management.

Strawberries

Harvest ongoing in the South

- 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.