



August 26, 2008

[Photos of the week](#): Botrytis fruit mold in blackberries.

[Small Fruit Cold Storage Report](#)

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

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

Crop Reports

Blueberries

- **British Columbia:** (8/25) Not a lot of happy growers the last few days. We dodged a bit of a bullet last Tuesday-Wednesday with the rain for a day and a half. Some splits in Bluecrop and fruit drop in some fields. It could have been worse. Sunday's heavy rain was more destructive with a lot more fruit falling to the ground and some pretty wet fields to get the machines back in to. Alternaria is a bit of an issue. The longer range forecast is not exactly promising warm, sunny weather so ripening the Elliot crop could be difficult. Some split fruit in Elliots as well. A long way to go with this variety. September needs to be good.
- **Northern Washington, Mt Vernon:** (8/23) Blues coming off in pretty good shape, considering the heat followed by rainy weather. We're past half way on harvest. Fields that didn't get hit with shock and pseudomonas are doing fairly well. Labor still OK, but seeing the beginning of the departures.
- **Northern Washington, Lynden:** (8/22) Lots of split fruit in the Bluecrop, Hardiblu are not bad. We are picking as fast as we can to beat the next rain on Sunday. A few slugs in the smaller plants and a few late leafrollers also.
- **Oregon/SW Washington:** (8/26) Quite a lot of split fruit in the Elliots. Some of the other varieties had some splitting also but not as much. The last of the Bluecrop, Legacy, Ozarkblue and Bluegold will come in this week with Rabbiteyes starting sometime next week.

Blackberries, Oregon: (8/26)

- **Processed:** Evergreens, Chesters and Hulls are coming in. Some mold problems, as expected, but also some good quality fruit.
- **Fresh Market:** Growing under hoops is paying off this year as that portion of the crop escaped major sunburn and then mold and soft fruit issues caused by the weather fluctuations this past week. Continues to come in with reasonable quality.

Raspberries

- **British Columbia:** (8/25) Raspberries are enjoying this late August weather with really good post harvest recovery and excellent cane growth with a definite slow down of post harvest mite infestation. The crop and price are so much better than expected. I'm really enjoying talking to raspberry growers with a long overdue sense of optimism!

Position Opening

- **Technician Position Available in the University of Arkansas fruit breeding program:** [Click here](#) for the details. At least a BS with some experience is needed. This would be working with Dr. John Clark, one of the top blackberry breeders in the world with the opportunity to pursue an advanced degree.

Industry News

- **Fertilizer costs likely to continue to rise:** [Click here](#) for this 8/23 *Green Bay Press Gazette* article with comments from Ford West, the president of the Fertilizer Institute.
- **More strawberries, more anti-oxidant absorption:** [Click here](#) for this 8/21 ARS press release.

Regional Updates

- **B.C. Blueberry Council IPM newsletter for August 21:** [Click here.](#)

New Pest Information

Alert: [Botrytis Fruit Mold](#), late ripening blackberries: Keep on top of fungicides as well as getting ripe fruit out of the field as quickly as possible.

On-going Pest Information

Birds, blueberries

Insects

- [Blueberry Gall Midge](#), blueberries.
- [Aphids](#), blueberries
- [Aphids](#), northern raspberries:
- [Yellow mites](#), northern raspberries.
- Twospotted Mites, [Raspberries](#).
- [Orange Tortrix leafrollers](#), southern caneberries.
- [Weevils](#), strawberries, blueberries: For more weevil information, click on these links: [rough strawberry root weevil](#), [black vine root weevils](#), [strawberry root weevils](#).

Diseases

- [Blackberry rust](#), evergreen blackberries: Conditions are perfect for increased infections of blackberry rust. While these new infections won't have visible symptoms for a couple of weeks, late season fungicide applications could be needed at that time. Monitor closely.
- [Cane Blight](#), raspberries: Right after harvest is the time to protect the open catcher plate wounds from cane blight infections with a fungicide application.
- [Redberry Mites](#), late ripening blackberries.
- [Mummyberry](#), blueberries.
- Other blueberry fungal diseases: [Alternaria Fruit Rot](#), [Anthracnose Ripe Rot](#), [Botrytis](#).
- Blueberry virus diseases: [Shock Virus](#), [Scorch Virus](#).
- Other raspberry and blackberry fungal diseases: [Yellow Rust](#), [Cane and Leaf Rust](#), [Phytophthora Root Rot](#), [Purple Blotch](#).
- Raspberry and blackberry virus diseases: Raspberry Bushy Dwarf virus, [Raspberries](#), [Marionberries](#).

Tissue analysis & soil testing

Post harvest is the best time to do most soil and leaf testing for nutrient management planning.

- **Blueberries:** Tissue testing and pH monitoring are most critical. Complete soil tests don't correlate as well with plant needs as tissue tests. [Click here](#) to view OSU's Blueberry Nutrient (and testing) Guidelines.
- **Caneberries:** While annual soil testing has been the industry norm, Oregon State's recently updated nutritional guide recommends annual leaf testing with soil tests done just every few years. [Click here](#) to view OSU's Caneberry Nutrient (and testing) Guidelines.

Cropwork

Caneberries and blueberries: Nutrient testing is recommended immediately post-harvest. (See above)

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.

- 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.
- Scout for redberry mite damage.
- Scout for fruit disorders (e.g. crumbly fruit, dry cell) and determine cause.

Raspberries—Harvest finishing up.

- Can treat for cane blight prevention in machine picked fields right after harvest.
- Scout for potential crop contaminants. Treat as needed.
- Scout for fruit disorders (e.g. crumbly fruit, dry cell) and determine cause.

- 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.
- Scout for aphids and treat as needed.

Strawberries—Processed harvest finished.

- Check weak areas for root weevil larvae, strawberry crown borers and/or root disease problems.
- Watch for weevil notching and plan for weevil management as needed.