



June 2, 2009

[You Tube link of the week](#): "How to Make Small Batch Strawberry Jam". In Oregon, the harvest is here.

[Photos of the week](#): Strawberry harvest in the Northwest.

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

[Upcoming Meetings](#)

New Meeting Information

June 8—The B.C. Raspberry Industry Development Council Spray Equipment Demonstration: 1-3 PM, 320 Berry Haven Farm on Mt. Lehman Rd. South of the Abby airport. The RIDC is hosting a comparative demonstration of new and old sprayer equipment and nozzles for all raspberry producers. Comparing current technology, various sprayer equipment combinations spray coverage within the raspberry canopy, showcasing high versus low volume, high versus low pressure and air-blast sprayers and nozzles. The aim of this demonstration is to provide producers with the best information on sprayer technologies and techniques and also help establish links with local suppliers. For more information, contact the Council office at 604-854-8010 or [email](#).

Regional reports

These reports are from individuals within the region and are their particular observations. They are included to give an impression of the present 'state of the industry' and regional activities.

British Columbia, Fraser Valley (6/2/09)

- **Blueberries:** We're into a real hot spell here with temps to 31-32C (88-90F) yesterday and hotter today. Blues are finishing bloom in Bluecrop this week in most areas. Elliot will continue for a while yet. Almost ideal pollination weather as well as some pretty good fruit filling taking place. Crop continues to look very good.
- **Raspberries:** Bloom is taking off with first fungicide cover sprays going on this week. The very warm weather and good soil conditions are really pushing this crop along. Non winter impacted fields look very good. We're watching for mite issues very closely but so far numbers appear to be low. The hot weather makes us a little nervous, though.

Whatcom County, Northern Washington (Thursday 5/29/09)

- **Blueberries:** Cold and wet switched to hot and dry, we could use a little moderation. Well, 70-80 for the next ten days sounds too good to be true. We are watering everything. Blues are looking pretty good, heavy bloom, lots of bees.
- **Strawberries:** Strawberries about to finish bloom, fruit is nicely shaped and sizing up, no weevil spots yet.
- **Raspberries:** Raspberries coming into heavy bloom, bees are wild. Laterals still extending, most fields look real nice. Let's hold this weather pattern till the end of August.

Skagit County, Northern Washington (Thursday 6/1/09)

- **Blueberries:** Berries seem to be negatively impacted here more than other areas. We've got some sort of shock-virus-looking symptoms that seem to hang on longer than they should if they were shock. That gave pseudomonas a place to get going. Some fields worse than others. Temperature induced, weather induced, soil borne, bad bees, proximity to water?? If you have a guess, please throw it in the ring.
- **Strawberries:** Still some bloom showing, but some green berries are also in the fields.
- **Blackberries:** They're going to be as tough as we thought earlier due to winter damage. Always hoped they would rebound somehow, but guess not.
- **Raspberries:** Raspberries are finally coming along, but will be a below normal crop.

Willamette Valley, Oregon and SW Washington (6/2/09)

- **Blueberries:** Bloom is pretty well finished on all but the latest varieties. Great pollination and fruit set just about across the board. No major insect or disease problems. Major threat right now with the fruit sizing is that we've been dry and in the mid-80's for a few days. Still no rain in sight but the temperatures are moderating. There's a chance that fruit size will be affected if growers don't keep the soil moisture levels up.
- **Blackberries:** The hot weather has really accelerated the bloom. In Marions we've gone from 20% to about 70% in a week. Could be a heavy second/third pick. Even saw a bloom in an Evergreen field. Bloom sprays going on,

some irrigation going. As with the blues, the major threat right now would be fields drying out too much. Looks like a pretty nice crop shaping up.

- **Raspberries:** No major problems seen. Crop is looking very good....same issue on making sure they have enough water to keep stress to a minimum. Some root rot collapse is evident in the usual fields.
- **Strawberries:** Here we go...We start processed harvest on Monday with more fields starting mid to late week. These guys could use some extra moisture to size up before picking but it doesn't look like it's coming from rain. Just a chance of some thunder showers. We're probably about 9-10 days behind normal. Crop size will depend a lot on the amount of heat and water stress fields see. Sure isn't a lack of labor. We've got a whole lot of people out of work.

Newsletters

- **New Jersey Blueberry Bulletin for 6-01-09:** [Click here.](#)
- **Michigan State Blueberry IPM Newsletter for 6-2-09:** [Click here.](#)
- **Michigan State's Fruit Crop Advisory for 6-2-09:** [Click here.](#)
- **British Columbia Blueberry Commission IPM Newsletter for 5-22-09:** [Click here.](#)

OSU Berry and Grape Infonet Website is down but not for long

Due to hacking and various changes in domain/hosting, the <http://berrygrape.oregonstate.edu> web site will be migrated to a new site <http://www.berrygrape.org>. The new site will be up and running in a few days.

Oregon State Extension Updates

- *This is bleak reading in terms of how much support our industry will receive from Oregon State University in the future. In personal terms, it's also a very difficult time for many of our friends and colleagues who see their livelihoods and programs threatened.*
- [Click here](#) for a one page summary of the present Extension budget situation dated 5/29/09.
- [Click here](#) for "Budget Reductions: Effects, Likely Consequences, and Strategies" dated 5/30/09.

Food Safety Update

- **California startup to give small growers traceability help:** [Click here](#) (The Packer, 6/2/09)
- **Food Safety and Traceability Links:** [Click here](#) for recent stories and resources on food safety issues.

Industry news/resources

- **(Chile) Chile launches berry committee:** [Click here](#) (fruitnet.com, 5/27/09)
- **Conference addresses health benefits of berries:** [Click here](#) (The Packer, 6/1/09)
- **(North Carolina) Rain impacts strawberry farmers crops:** [Click here](#) (News 14 Carolina, 5/28/09)
- **California raspberries see gains in visibility and popularity:** [Click here](#) (The Produce News, 5/28/09)
- **(Australia) New single serve frozen berry mixes launched by McCain Foods:** [Click here](#) (Food Week, 5/28/09) They're using blends of raspberries, blackberries and blueberries.
- **Oregon blueberry assessment cap altered downward:** [Click here](#) (The Capital Press, 5/23/09)
- **Farm jobs bills may lead to immigration fix:** [Click here](#) (The Appeal Democrat, Yuba City, CA 5/31/09)
- **USDA extends deadline for organic funding:** [Click here](#) (The Packer, 5/28/09) From May 29th to June 12th.

Innovation news/resources

- **USDA Blackberry Cultivar Developments:** [Click here](#) and then click on the Small Fruit Breeding Program link to view blackberry selections available to growers for trialing on farm.
- **News on developments in berry industry equipment, technology, etc. requested:** If your company or farm has new products or innovations that would be of use to the northwest berry industry, we'd like to help you get the word out through the [Berry Innovation News](#), our new online trade magazine. If you've got any links or releases of interest, please email smallfruitupdate@peerbolt.com or call our office at 503-289-7287.

March 12th Central Washington Blueberry Workshop Presentations Online

- [Click here](#) to view slides and videos of workshop presentations. The workshop was sponsored by WSU and the Washington Blueberry Commission with additional support from Fall Creek Nursery, Wilson Irrigation and Orchard Supply, and Extendday.

Meeting Information

- **June 4— BC Blueberry Council Annual General Meeting:** 7:00-9:00 pm, Newlands Golf and Country Club, Langley BC. All growers are invited for a market update and book release of the Commission's pocket field guide, "A Field Guide to Identification of Pests, Diseases and other Disorders in Blueberry Fields". Growers attending will get a guide for free. Additional guides will be \$20 a copy (Canadian dollars). [Sonja Ring](#) (604) 613 2133.

- **June 10—OSU Strawberry Open House**~ 2 pm. North Willamette Research & Extension Center. Aurora, OR. [Click here](#) for the flyer with full information. There will be a \$10 charge per person, payable on site. No pre-registration is needed.
- **June 16—WSU Strawberry Open House**~ 3-5 pm. Goss Farm, Puyallup. The field day will consist of an informal tour of the WSU strawberry plots. See some of the most promising new WSU selections (such as WSU 2602 and WSU 2606, both early and WSU 2776 and WSU 2833, both late). It is also an opportunity to discuss directions for strawberry research. For directions or further information, contact [Pat Moore](#), 253-445-4525.
- **June 16—Caneberry Leafrollers, Parasitoids and Farm Landscape Ecology: A Beneficials Farm Walk**~ 2-5 PM with a pot luck at 5 Hinsvark Berry Farm, Woodburn, OR. Sponsored by the Integrated Plant Protection Center at OSU. [Click here](#) for more information. You can call or [email](#) Gwendolyn Ellen to register or with questions 503-737-6272.
- **June 22-23—The International Berry Health Benefits Symposium**~ Monterey, California. Hosted by the [National Berry Crops Initiative](#), seven North American berry organizations join together to feature the latest research by scientists worldwide on berries and human health.

New Pest Management Information

- **Weevils, southern strawberries:** Adult emergence of all major weevil species is now in progress. The leaf notching symptom is now evident in southern fields. For more weevil information, click on these links: [Rough Strawberry Root Weevil](#) , [Black Vine Root Weevils](#) [Strawberry Root Weevils](#) .
- **Orange Tortrix Leafrollers, southern blackberries and raspberries:** While Orange Tortrix pheromone trap numbers are high. This high number of adult male moths flying does not indicate high levels of larvae in the fields. "Worm" numbers in the fields right now are very low. The hatch that causes our crop contaminant problems has not yet happened so treatments targeted toward killing larvae should hold off until that hatch begins.
- **Blueberry Gall Midge, blueberries.** Gall Midge feeding is becoming much more evident.
 - Feeding has not been demonstrated to do economic damage under most field conditions.
 - There's reasonable speculation that, in new fields, the killing of young growth tips could stunt the bushes. Also, that late feeding in mature fields could cause excessive weak laterals that wouldn't be able to produce quality fruit.
 - However, even if they are causing some economic damage, there are no treatments labeled for Gall Midge control or that are even known to be effective given their overlapping, ongoing hatches.

Ongoing Pest Management Information

Diseases

- [Powdery Mildew](#), strawberries.
- [Blackberry Rust](#) (Phragmidium Rust), evergreen blackberries.
- [Yellow Rust](#), raspberries.
- [Alternaria Fruit Rot](#), blueberries.
- [Anthracnose Ripe Rot](#), blueberries.
- [Mummyberry](#), blueberries.
- [Purple Blotch](#), blackberries.
- [Shock Virus](#), blueberries.
- [Scorch Virus](#), blueberries.
- [Raspberry Bushy Dwarf Virus](#), Marionberries.

Insects

- [Raspberry Beetle](#), northern raspberries.
- [Twospotted Mites](#), strawberries.
- [Azalea Bark Scale](#), southern blueberries.
- [Winter Moth/ Bruce Spanworm](#), blueberries.
- [Aphids/Scorch Virus](#), blueberries.
- [Twospotted Spider Mites](#), raspberries.
- [Yellow Mites](#), northern raspberries.
- [Aphids](#), strawberries.

Cropwork

All Crops: Monitor soil moisture levels and irrigate as needed.

Blueberries

- Can apply Mummyberry control materials and/or take other Mummyberry management actions until the end of bloom.

- North--Scout for Span worms/Winter Moth, leafrollers and treat as needed.
- Apply aphid control as needed.
- Scout for Scale insects.
- Scout for weevil notching.
- Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to confirm.
- Can apply fungicide for fruit mold control until the end of bloom.
- After petal fall can continue to treat for Alternaria and/or Anthracnose.

Blackberries

- Scout for Phragmidium Rust in Evergreens.
- Scout for Cane and Leaf Rust.
- Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to confirm.
- Have bees in by 10% bloom.
- Can apply fungicide for fruit mold control starting at 10% bloom.
- Put out pheromone traps for leafrollers.

Raspberries

- Scout for Yellow Rust.
- Can apply phosphite material for Root Rot control.
- Can burn back primocanes as needed.
- Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to confirm.
- Have bees in by 10% bloom.
- Can apply fungicide for fruit mold control starting at 10% bloom.
- Put out pheromone traps for leafrollers.

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.
- Can apply phosphite material for Root Rot control.
- Watch for Weevil leaf notching and plan for Weevil management if needed.
- Can apply a fungicide for fruit mold control starting at 10% bloom until the end of bloom.
- Plan to put out pheromone traps for Strawberry Crown Moth in southern fields.