



June 30, 2009

[You Tube link of the week:](#) Take a look at the Georgia blueberry industry.

[Photos of the week:](#) Raspberry harvest gets going in Oregon this week. Fresh market fruit and machine harvested processed fruit.

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

[Cold Storage Report](#)

[Upcoming Meetings](#)

Oregon Blackberry Growers Bargaining Association becomes law.

This bill "provides an exception to antitrust laws for blackberry growers, allowing the Blackberry Growers Bargaining Association to meet with several packers at one time to discuss prices."

- **Friday, June 26--Meeting for growers, buyers and packers of Oregon grown blackberries**
- 9am at the Food Innovation Center, 1207 NW Naito Parkway, Portland
- [Click here](#) for the agenda and logistics.
- [Click here](#) (6/18/09 Capital Press) for the story.
- [Click here](#) for the full text of the bill.

Pest Alert: [Orange Tortrix Leafrollers](#), southern blackberries and raspberries:

- The larval hatch that causes our major crop contaminant problems is ongoing in many caneberry fields in SW Washington and Oregon.
- Fields that have been recording high adult pheromone trap counts are at high risk of having larval contaminant problems.
- Control materials containing active ingredients specifically targeted at leafroller larvae such as *Bacillus thuringiensis* and Spinosad are much more effective on these larvae when they're small.

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 (6/22/09)

- **Blueberries:** Some colour appearing in the Dukes in the past week. Dukes don't look as good as I thought they might be earlier. Some inconsistency in sizing showing and as time has gone on we have seen more winter damage to the canes become apparent. Bluecrop, Hardblue and even Bluejay on the other hand look good with excellent pollination. The dry weather has been good for fruit development and disease management. Let's hope it stays for the pick which should start around the 10th of July for fresh.
- **Raspberries:** Raspberry bloom wrapping up. A very fast intense bloom period. Fruit development has been very good and disease pressure minimal. There's going to be a lot of fruit coming off quickly by the looks of it when this starts. I anticipate a pick start the first week of July. Mites have held off to a great extent so far. About 10% of the acreage I work with has had miticides applied to this point which is pretty good compared to last season.

Whatcom County, Northern Washington (6/19/09)

- **Raspberries:** Raspberries looking pretty good, this cooler weather is just what they need.
- **Strawberries:** Strawberries are coming off really well this week.

Skagit County, Northern Washington (6/19/09)

- **Blueberries:** Long days and steady breezes have really kept water use high. Distinct yellowing below last winter's flood line in the Dukes; I imagine we lost our sulfur along with the compost.
- **Raspberries:** Plants are pushing hard with the heat and dry, some showing stress. They look pretty decent, uniformly devoid of fruit down below last winter's snow line however.
- **Strawberries:** In harvest now and coming off all at once keeping the processing plant scrambling to keep up, plenty of labor to pick 'em. The crop is OK but not huge.

- **Blackberries:** Trailing blacks are recovering nicely from our “forced” alternate year cropping program (had to cut them back due to winter injury).

Eastern Washington (6/20/09)

- **Blueberries:** Dukes start 'serious' harvest Monday (6/22/09). The crop continues to look excellent.

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

- **Blueberries:** Earliblue, Spartan and a few early Duke are now coming in for fresh market. A lot of growers are figuring on starting Dukes on next Monday, the 29th. There's going to a lot coming in next week. Early to mid this past week we began to see first color in Bluejay, Bluegold and Draper respectively. Perfect fruit sizing weather.
- **Raspberries:** Some Meeker and Coho fields will be starting harvest machine harvest later this week. A lot of clean up insecticide applications for fruit contaminants have gone on the last few days. Same message—great fruit ripening weather, potential is for some really nice looking fruit. Main problem might be the concentrated ripening pattern. A lot of fruit will be coming off over the next two weeks.
- **Blackberries:**
 - **Processed:** The crop continues to look good. Still not a huge crop due to some winter damage and slow growth in the spring but should be reasonable with excellent quality potential right now. Just have to get it through the next couple of weeks and out of the field. Marion harvest still looking to begin around the 9th or 10th of July. Silvans and Black Diamond about a week earlier although some fields could begin before the end of the month. As with the raspberries, there's going to be a lot of fruit ripening at the same time. Evergreens are anywhere from 20-50% bloom.
 - **Fresh:** Metolius and Obsidian started harvesting today. Quality looks good.
- **Strawberries:** Harvest will be finishing up over the next week. Not a great season—crop started late, fruit size was down, price and demand were pretty soft. Some mold problems reported in areas where there were labor shortages. Feels like it's ending with a whimper with growers very ready to move on to caneberries and blues.

Meeting Information

- **July 7—PARC Agassiz Berry Field Day~ 2 PM-4 PM.** PARC Abbotsford farm, 510 Clearbrook Rd. Abbotsford, British Columbia. Contact [Chaim Kempler](#) for more information. Phone number: 604-796-1716.
- **July 8—OSU Caneberry Open House**
 - 1pm. OSU North Willamette Research & Extension Center. Aurora, OR.
 - Sponsored by the [Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission](#).
 - [Click here](#) for the agenda and logistics. Call 503-678-1264 ext. 110 for more information.
- **July 15—OSU Blueberry Field Day ~ Time 1-5pm.** North Willamette Research & Extension Center. Aurora, OR. [Click here](#) for the agenda and logistics. Due to OSU budget restrains there will be a \$20 charge per person to cover costs, payable on site. No pre-registration is needed. Call 503-678-1264 ext. 110 for more information.
- **June 25 – Integrated Pest Management Scouting Tools for Blueberry & Raspberry Production ~ 10 am.** WSU Whatcom County Extension will discuss and demonstrate scouting techniques and current pest issues related to pre-harvest growth stage in blueberry and raspberry production. A pest scouting guide for each crop will be provided. It will be held at Boxx Berry Farm, 6211 Northwest Road, Ferndale, WA. Refreshments will be served. For more information, contact WSU Whatcom County Extension (360) 676-6736.

Newsletters

- **British Columbia Blueberry Commission IPM Newsletter for 6-18-09:** [Click here.](#)
- **New Jersey Blueberry Bulletin for 6-15-09:** [Click here.](#)
- **Michigan State Blueberry IPM Newsletter for 6-23-09:** [Click here.](#)
- **Michigan State Fruit Crop Advisory for 6-23-09:** [Click here.](#)

Industry news/resources

- **Superfruit success spawns Blue Pacific berry flavors:** [Click here](#) (6/16/09, Food Navigator)
- **(California) Tayberries have a short tart season:** [Click here](#) (6/21/09, San Francisco Chronicle)
- **(New Jersey) For the region's blueberry growers, the stress begins:** [Click here](#) (6/19/09, Press of Atlantic City)
- **(Australia) Blueberry growers worried about threat from Chile:** [Click here](#) (6/22/09, ABC Rural)
- **WSU ag college takes budget hit:** [Click here](#) (6/18/09, Capital Press)
- **J.M. Smucker 4th Quarter profit soars:** [Click here](#) (6/18/09, Capital Press)
- **(Michigan) Finally, fruit is coming in from the cold:** [Click here](#) (6/16/09, The Detroit News)
- **Tunnels should stretch strawberry season:** [Click here](#) (6/18/09 Capital Press)
- **Valley grows 98 percent of province's raspberries:** [Click here](#) (6/5/09, Abbotsford News)

New Pest Management Information

Potential new Pest—Light Brown Apple Moth

- **Third California berry field hit by moth:** [Click here](#) (6/17/09, The Packer) This is about the light brown apple moth in strawberry fields. To get a complete perspective, read the posted comment area also. There are legitimate questions being asked about the handling of this situation.
- **Aussie Moth takes first bite out of California fruit production:** [Click here](#) (6/16/09, Western Fruit Grower) This is about the light brown apple moth in a blackberry field in California.

Unidentified blueberry disorder

- **Skagit County, Whatcom County, Washington:**

This appears to be a recurring problem that we've examined in past years with a tentative conclusion that it might be 'secondary shock virus' symptoms. Seems to be something else might be going on...)

"Many of the blossoms have turned brown and had the leaves fall off but the berries stayed attached. You'll have a plant with no, or very few, leaves but have clusters of bb sized fruit. Fruit is already turning color, while the larger, more normal fruit is still quite green. This is most evident in the Blue Crop, but Reka, Duke, and Blue Jay all show the symptoms."

- **Obliquebanded Leafrollers, northern blueberries.** OBLR plus other leafroller species are being reported at damaging levels in northern blueberries.

Ongoing Pest Management Information

Diseases

- **Blackberry Rust** (Phragmidium Rust), **evergreen blackberries.**
- **Yellow Rust**, raspberries.
- **Alternaria Fruit Rot**, blueberries.
- **Anthracoze Ripe Rot**, blueberries.
- **Mummyberry**, blueberries.
- **Purple Blotch**, blackberries.
- **Shock Virus**, blueberries.
- **Scorch Virus**, blueberries.
- **Raspberry Bushy Dwarf Virus**, Marionberries.

Insects

- **Alert: Orange Tortrix Leafrollers, southern blackberries and raspberries:** See details above
- **Alert: Weevils, strawberries:** Adult emergence of all major weevil species continues. For more weevil information, click on these links: [Rough Strawberry Root Weevil](#) , [Black Vine Root Weevils](#) [Strawberry Root Weevils](#) .
- **Alert: Strawberry Crown Moth, southern strawberries and caneberries:** Pheromone traps in SW Washington strawberry fields picked up emerging SCM adults. First control treatments should be timed to go on 10-14 days after first consistent trap catches.
- **Blueberry Gall Midge, blueberries.**
- **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

- 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.
- Can apply fungicide for fruit mold control.
- Put out pheromone traps for leafrollers.
- Scout for leafroller larvae.

Raspberries—Harvest starting this week in the southern growing areas

- Scout for Yellow Rust.
- Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to confirm.
- Can apply fungicide for fruit mold control.
- Put out pheromone traps for leafrollers.
- Scout for leafroller larvae.

Strawberries—Harvest ongoing

- 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 leaf notching and plan for weevil management if needed.
- Put out pheromone traps for Strawberry Crown Moth in southern fields.
- Scout for fruit quality issues such as mold.