

Small Fruit Update



August 13, 2009

[You Tube link of the week](#): Freezing Fruit for all Seasons.

This is the third Willamette Valley Fruit Company video I've found on youtube.com. I can only post what's available. So, if your company or farm has a video posted somewhere, or you know of any other videos of interest, [let me know](#). Right now I'm just picking up what I can find.

[Photos of the Week](#): Blackberry Rust photos taken in an Evergreen Blackberry field this last week.

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

New Meeting Information

[Click here](#) for the full calendar of Northwest berry crop events.

- **October 15-17— NABC and USHBC October meetings in Portland (October 14- optional tour) ~** Benson Hotel. [Click here](#) for the information letter. [Reservation](#) due by Sept 1st. Also see [tentative meeting schedule](#) for more details.
- **February 24-26, 2010—The North American Raspberry & Blackberry Conference/ annual meeting~** Monterey, California. [Beach Resort Monterey](#). [Click here](#) for info on sponsoring, exhibiting, or attending.
 - ([Debby Wechsler](#) NARBA's director is looking for ideas/input of interest to Northwest raspberry and blackberry growers to include in this conference. If you've got comments, please pass them on directly to Debby or to me (tom@peerbolt.com). Thanks.)

Help! Potential raspberry nematode management materials need a field for testing!

USDA Nematologists Inga Zasada and Jack Pinkerton have completed lab and greenhouse efficacy studies to determine which products show the most promise and are ready to start field trials. They need a field with fairly high nematode counts throughout, preferably Meeker. This trial would have to be crop-destruct, meaning that the grower couldn't sell fruit from the plot area (about 36-41 post lengths). Compensation should be available. If you could help out or have inquiries, contact [Inga Zasada](#) at 541-738-4051 or [Tom Walters](#) at 360-848-6124.

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

- **Blueberries**
 - (8/12) Over 2 inches of rain in the Abbotsford area on Monday and Tuesday. It sure replenished some dry soil but also brought on some splits in Bluecrop which just adds to a very difficult picking season for us. A cooling trend the rest of the week will slow down the Elliot ripening which was gaining some undesired momentum last week.
 - (8/12) I saw a few fields without irrigation in the heat last week that produced some Duke berries that were light enough to be blown off the belt by the wind sorters. The fields couldn't be harvested. Now the rains have come and gone with one more, smaller push of moisture due on Friday. Temps are now cool enough to avoid soft fruit. The rain also washed the plants off and provided much needed relief for the irrigation systems and operators. Decent Bluecrop fruit now; however, not much for third pick, a lot of small berries. Spotty fruit rot, not much yet. Elliott coming on fast now. Next week's expected warmer and dry weather will speed things up again.
- **Raspberries:** (8/12) Raspberries are finished and postharvest activities are under way. Some mites to deal with in a few fields, but, for the most part, they are not a big problem. Crop was excellent quality right to the end.

Northern Washington, Whatcom County:

- **Blueberries:** (8/11) 1.69 inches of rain in Lynden Monday and Tuesday. Irrigation guys taking a well-deserved break. Rain has split some fruit. Quality was good last week. Need to keep up with the bird hazing.

- **Raspberries:** (8/11) Woohoo! Raspberry harvest all but over, just the late varieties remaining. Mites have staged a comeback in some fields. Subsoiling to break up compaction. Might want to check your raspberries for picker wounds, mites, weevils, aphids, and treat as needed.

Northern Washington, Skagit County

- **Blueberries**
 - (8/11) Rain in Skagit was .52 inches in the gauge this morning, and another .2 during the day. Hardiblues look good after heat and rain. Liberty looks awesome; Brigitta took rain much better than last year, for whatever the reason. Is it possible that if you get behind on watering, the fruit takes it better? Duke all but done. Bluecrop has splits and has gotten soft from rain. At least there is no standing in long lines at the bank to deposit checks for the blueberry crop. One must find joy where it is to be found.
 - (8/12) Not quite so much rain in Skagit as further north: 0.5 to 1 inch. At the research station (where we irrigated pretty heavily), fruit size of the varieties we monitored (Duke, Bluecrop, Liberty, a series of numbered selections) did not drop off noticeably. I did notice softening in Bluecrop, but it might have been because we don't pick quite as frequently as we should.
- **Raspberries**
 - (8/11) Mites are building in the postharvest raspberries and aphids are moving to new targets (read that to be lush and watered berry fields).
 - (8/12) Raspberries finished, the usual postharvest activities going on.

Oregon/SW Washington

- **Blueberries:** We got about a quarter inch of rain over the last 24 hours. Elliots are around the end of the first pick and moving into the second. Ozarkblue, Legacy and Brigitta are still coming in. Some fields got hit pretty hard by the heat last week. Main effects were soft fruit, some shrivel and some smaller sized berries. Big difference between fields with misting or overhead irrigation and those that didn't have it.
- **Blackberries:** Chesters are being harvested. Evergreens are just about to begin. Great looking fruit in the fields without much of a market value. Seems to be the story of blackberries this year. Again.

Newsletters

- **New Jersey Blueberry Bulletin for 8-10-09:** [Click here.](#)
- **Michigan State Fruit Crop Advisory for 8-12-09:** [Click here.](#)

Industry news/resources

US/Canada

- (California-Fresh) **Fall berry deal turning out to be a good one on all fronts:** [Click here.](#) (8/7, The Produce News)
- (Massachusetts) **Blueberries stand up to damp northeast summer:** [Click here.](#) (8/9, Associated Press)
- (British Columbia) **Bumper crop of B.C. cherries and blueberries the Pits for local Growers:** [Click here.](#) (8/10, The Vancouver Sun)
- (Michigan) **Blueberry growers see sweet harvest this year:** [Click here.](#) (8/5, The Detroit News)
- (Michigan) **Blueberries running late:** [Click here.](#) (7/31, Fresh Plaza)

International

- **Poland fresh market news and pricing website:** [Click here.](#) Up-to-date information on Eastern European berry crops.
- (Serbia) **Raspberry farmers to meet with minister:** [Click here.](#) (7/31/09, BE92)
- (Poland) **Growers disappointed with raspberry prices:** [Click here.](#) (8/6/09, Fresh Plaza)
- (United Kingdom-Fresh strawberries) **Albion the perfect pick:** [Click here.](#) (8/11, Fresh Plaza)
- (United Kingdom) **Recession hits bumper berry crop:** [Click here.](#) (8/11, BBC News)

Nutraceutical

- **Hepatitis Healing Power of Blueberry Leaves:** [Click here.](#) (8/10, Science Daily) Original article published in the Journal of Biological Chemistry.

On-going Pest Information

Birds, blueberries

Insects/Mites

- **Redberry Mite, late ripening blackberries: New treatment method.** [Click here](#) for UC management guidelines for this pest. They've come up with an improvement over our traditional sulfur applications, namely: "Horticultural oils, such as Natur'l Oil and Golden Pest Spray Oil, when used at the rate of 1.2 to 2% volume

to volume, applied after green fruit or first pink fruit stage in four consecutive applications spaced 2 or 3 weeks apart give significant control of redberry mite, while causing less harm to fruit yield than sulfur sprays."

- [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

- [Cane Blight](#), raspberries: Right after harvest is the time to protect the open catcher plate wounds from cane blight infections with a fungicide application.
- [Blueberry fungal diseases](#): [Alternaria Fruit Rot](#), [Anthracnose Ripe Rot](#), [Botrytis](#).
- [Blueberry virus diseases](#): [Shock Virus](#), [Scorch Virus](#).
- [Raspberry and blackberry fungal diseases](#): [Yellow Rust](#), [Botrytis](#), [Cane and Leaf Rust](#), [Phytophthora Root Rot](#), [Purple Blotch](#).
- [Raspberry and blackberry virus diseases](#): Raspberry Bushy Dwarf virus, [Raspberries](#), [Marionberries](#).

Cropwork

Caneberries and blueberries: Nutrient testing is recommended immediately postharvest.

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 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 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.
- Renovate harvested fields.