



August 25, 2009

[You Tube link of the week](#): The California Blueberry Association.

[Photos of the Week](#): **Spotted Wing Drosophila** photos taken in Washington fields with in the last two weeks. Adult on a raspberry and larvae in a strawberry.

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

New Pest Alert: Spotted Wing Drosophila: This pest has now been identified in strawberries and raspberries in Washington. The larvae of this fruit fly species feed within ripening fruit causing softening and bruising damage. [Click here](#) for the latest information on the most recent tests in California for detecting, monitoring and estimating populations of this "very small and mobile" insect.

[Click here](#) for video information (growingproduce.com)

Alert: Botrytis, Late Season Blackberries: We've got perfect conditions for growing mold today. Mist/drizzle is keeping leaves and fruit wet for long periods. Keep on top of fungicide applications.

Thanks:

- **Thanks** to all who take time to share information with us. We send out a weekly request for information to numerous individuals in both the public and private sectors, and their willingness to share is what makes this possible.
- **Thanks** also to all of the **northwest small fruit commissions** and **councils** listed above who provide the funds.
- **Thanks** to all the **growers**. This is a service that, ultimately, all of you are paying for with your assessment money.

Does this Update work for you?

- Any ideas on what we can do to improve? What do you need? We want feedback!
- [Click here](#) to email or call 503-289-7287.
- Just need to say, "Good job"...Or, maybe, "Please, stop sending these to me!"

Another Request for feedback: Are there many of you who would like a mobile version of the Small Fruit Update to be able to read on a Blackberry/Smartphone?

One subscriber suggested it, and I thought I'd check to see if there's a reasonable demand for it out there.

[Click here](#) to respond.

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.

Northern Washington, Skagit County (8/21)

- **Blueberries**: Duke finished. Bluejay finished. Reka finished. Probably another pick in Rubel. Bluecrop *still* soft from the rain, then the heat this week, *and* it tried to rain again today. Getting pretty tired of this yo-yo. Elliotts are turning and the crop looks to be very good.

Oregon/SW Washington

- **Blueberries**: (8/20) Elliotts are coming in. Very good looking crop. Rabbiteye are also being picked. Great weather right now.
- **Blackberries**:(8/18) We started evergreens Sunday night. Quality is OK, some mold and some soft fruit. Unless the heat causes some problems the second pick should be better, things will be cleaned up. Overall yields look to be above average.

Newsletters

- **New Jersey Blueberry Bulletin for 8-19-09:** [Click here.](#)
- **Michigan State Blueberry IPM Newsletter for 8-18-09:** [Click here.](#) Good article on post harvest weed management.

Industry news/resources

US/Canada

- (U.S.) **The latest USDA reports on bee colonies suffering from colony collapse disorder:** [Click here](#) (8/12, USDA-ARS), [Click here](#) (8/24, USDA-ARS)
- (U.S.) **Troops get taste of blueberries:** [Click here](#) (8/20, Capital Press)
- (Northwest) **Computer and internet usage up on NW farms:** [Click here](#) for the story (8/21, Capital Press)
For the full 28 page survey, [Click here](#) (NASS, August/09)
- (Maine) **Wild blueberry crops beat rainy season and fungus:** [Click here](#) (8/20, WABI)
- (WA & OR) **Minimum wage won't be lowered in Oregon and Washington:** [Click here](#) (8/24, Capital Press)
- (WA) **Labor department inspections bring in thousands in fines:** [Click here](#) (8/19, Okanogan Chronicle)

International

- (Chile) **New Blueberry Committee formed to increase North American sales:** [Click here](#) (7/21, Fresh Plaza)
- (Turkey) **'Produce blueberries instead of hazelnuts' Farmers told by Ministry of Agriculture:** [Click here](#) (8/22, Today's Zaman)

New Pest Information

- **Blackberry Rust** (Phragmidium Rust), **evergreen blackberries:** Rust is showing up in the evergreens, primarily in the off year fields, at some pretty high levels. Late Summer/fall fungicide applications could be needed.

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.
- **Yellow mites, northern raspberries.**
- **Twospotted Mites, raspberries.**
- **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](#), [Cane and Leaf Rust](#), [Phytophthora Root Rot](#), [Purple Blotch](#).
- **Raspberry and blackberry virus diseases:** Raspberry Bushy Dwarf virus, [Raspberries](#), [Marionberries](#).

Meeting Information

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

- **August 27—7th Annual Whatcom Farm Education Fund Golf Tournament**~ 1pm. Dinner follows at 5pm. Shuksan Golf and Country Club, Everson, WA. Funds go to scholarships for local farmers to support educational opportunities that benefit all farmers. [Click here](#) for more information.
- **September 9— Washington Red Raspberry Commission meeting**~ 1-5 pm.WSU Skagit Station, Mt. Vernon, WA. For information call Henry Bierlink at 360-354-8767 or [email](#) him.
- **September 17—Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission meeting and Budget meeting** ~ 5:30pm. Langdon Farms, Aurora, OR. Call 541-758-4043 or email [Philip Gütt](#) for more information.
- **September 22— Oregon Blueberry Commission meeting**~ 12pm. Doaks Ferry Room, Salem, OR. Call 503 364-2944 for more information.
- **September 23— Oregon Strawberry Commission meeting**~ 6pm. West Salem Roth's, Salem, OR. Call 541-758-4043 or email [Philip Gütt](#) for more information.

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 rust in Evergreens.
- 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—Processed harvest finished.

- 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.