Weekly Berry Call – May 26, 2010

IF YOU HAVEN"T ALREADY – please fill out **survey re: Bird Damage** that was sent via email by Cathy Heidenreich. Thanks!

Participants: Cathy Heidenreich (Finger Lakes region/Geneva), Dale Ila Riggs (Stephentown/Northern Hudson Valley), Molly Shaw (South Central NY), Laura McDermott (greater Capital District), Jeff Miller (Oneida county), Colleen Cavagna, (Allegany/Cattaraugus). Thanks to both Pam Fischer (OMAFRA, Ontario Canada berry specialist), and Kathy Demchak (Penn State University, University Park, PA), for sending written reports to include in this summary.

GROWING CONDITIONS (courtesy NY NASS)
Week ending May 23, 2010: WEATHER: The week started warm and dry with temperatures near or slightly below normal on the 16th and 17th. High temperatures were in the 70's in most areas both days. Lows were the 40's with some 30's in the mountains. An area of low pressure brought rain and below normal temperatures on the 18th and 19th. High temperatures were in the 50's and 60's with lows ranging from the upper 40's to mid 50's. Rainfall ranged from a quarter inch or less in western and northern areas to between three quarters of an inch and an inch in southern areas. Sunny and dry weather returned for the rest of the week, the 20th through the 22nd, with temperatures in the upper 70's to mid 80's and low temperatures in the 40's and 50's.

REPORTS FROM THE FIELD
Allegany/Cattaraugus: temps have been in the 80's for the last several days. Very little rain – quite dry.

Geneva: 1st ripe strawberries, raspberries in full bloom and some green fruit, blueberries have green berries. Warm with very little rain, down at least ½". Few disease and insect problems. One incident of extensive leafroller damage in a blueberry planting – they are going to try and control it with Bt.

Finger Lakes region: Not as dry as other areas are reporting. Ever bearing strawberries fruiting – June bearing strawberries are green. Has seen shoot strikes in blueberries (see discussion below).

Oneida County – max-min temp and rainfall collections reveal that – ¼" rainfallis the most collected making for great haying weather; strawberries and blueberries developing quickly – U-picks should open in 2 weeks. GDD since April 6th are 416, but since May 1st only 230!

Capital District: Very warm – temperatures into mid-90's yesterday. Little rain – mostly sporadic showers. June bearing strawberries will start picking in many places this weekend. Day-neutrals (Chandler) have been picking for several weeks – berries are huge and plants look great. Raspberries are flowering – some winter damage. Blueberries have just finished with bloom.

Stephentown/Upper Hudson: Warm and dry – setting up irrigation. harvesting strawberries - field berries will begin harvesting this weekend. HT strawberries dwindling. Demand is very strong at markets. Harvest is very early this year; anticipate that Fathers day weekend may be the peak – 'Ovation' and 'Bounty' may be the only things left at the July 4th weekend. Very good fruit size expected. TPB exploded last week.

Emailed Report from Kathy Demchak, Penn State, University Park PA and surrounding vicinity:
Have seen spittle bug and root weevils in some areas. Have some problems with cyclamen mites in new plantings (see discussion below).

Emailed Report from Pam Fischer, OMAFRA, Ontario, Canada and surrounding vicinity:
Very hot here and mostly dry but rain in some areas Saturday. Growers have been harvesting 'Albion' for 2 weeks, but 'Albion' where I have my plots is disappointing, with lots of TPB damage and possible hort crop...no bloom left only small fruit. 'Seascape' is looking better. Two spot spider mites very active and cyclamen mites will soon be a problem. Crown rot showing up in 'Albion' and 'Gov simcoe' ....possibly anthracnose or phytophthora? A farm in Niagara has a bad problem with thrips - this is greenhouse country so thrips are probably resistant to lots of things. Grower sprayed Delegate and Acetamiprid but still has lots of thrips. In my berry message this week I will talk about evapocooling. http://apps.omafra.gov.on.ca/scripts/english/crops/agriphone/index.asp CFF flying now. Clipper weevil and raspberry fruitworm on rasp.

DISCUSSION:

Weekly Berry Call – May 26, 2010

Cyclamen mites have occasionally posed problems for growers throughout the NE. There is a possibility that these mites are brought in on nursery material, and you might see them in higher populations when April is unusually warm. Using work done Finland as a guide, Dale Riggs used *Neoseiulus cucumeris* as a control. Don't release the predacious mites until after renovation and before renovation, flag the mite hot spots then concentrate releases in those areas. Make sure that you do not move people or equipment from a mite infested planting into a clean planting so you don't spread the problem.

Above photo from cyclamen mite fact sheet from OMAFRA. http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/facts/cyclam.htm#lookalike Notice the small plant and leaf size of plant on left.

Shoot strikes in blueberries – Beginning now and continuing into the summer is when you may see evidence of disease strikes in the shoot tips of blueberries. Along with the strikes there may be some odd looking shiny brown spots on leaves. If you prune out the strikes, then place them in a plastic bag for a few days you might see salmon colored slime which would indicate Anthracnose. Some of the symptoms could be attributed to phomopsis (see picture below) – but it's more likely to see canker strikes later in the summer. Treatment for canker diseases – prune and remove is 1st strategy but a delayed dormant lime sulfur application is also appropriate. Anthracnose has several fungicides to choose from. The source of the photo below and more information about canker diseases can be found at: http://www.fruit.cornell.edu/berry/ipm/ipmpdfs/BB%20canker%20fast%20fact.pdf

Mites in HT raspberries – For growers that are not removing HT skin during the winter, mites can pose a big problem. The hot and dry HT environment is perfect for mites. The primary means of control are predators released at a 25% infested threshold. Stylet oil could also be used, but care should be made that the application is not made when temperatures are over 90 degrees or when plants are under drought. Dormant oil applied in late February might be a good choice for residual populations.

Winter cane injury in raspberries. Growers should be careful about hardiness ratings when planting florican raspberries. Varieties like 'Canby' are not reliably hardy in many places in NY. If many floricanes are dead, make sure that emerging primocanes are not too thick – data shows that lack of light in primocanes will exacerbate blind bud problems and then the plant begins a downward spiral of poor vigor and winter kill.

Nutsedge in new planting of plasticulture June bearing strawberries is a real problem. Ideally this should be taken care of before field fitting and planting, but in the event it is not, the only effective and legal approach is to use a wick application of glyphosate. There are other materials that might be effective against nutsedge and if wick applied would probably be safe for the berries, but they are not yet labeled for this purpose. As 1st year strawberries are very sensitive to some herbicides and as herbicide applications over plastic are already tricky, the grower should be conservative in his approach.

Strawberries – spring dug vs. fall dug. Mixed feelings exist among the group about which is a more vigorous plant. Some nurseries may have great luck with digging spring plants early enough for our use. If you are receiving fall dug plants, make sure that you do not get them too late – the longer the plants are held in storage, the less reserve they will have to begin growth in the spring/summer.

Blueberries – containers vs. bare root for new plants. Some problems were noted this year with 3 year old containerized blueberries. Some plants were shipped to growers with leaves, and though they looked fine when planted, they have not thrived, especially when compared to bare root plants installed at the same time. In theory the containerized plants should be larger as often nurseries will plant them at the end of the season and them grow them out and ship them the next spring. Buyers should make sure that plants are still dormant upon receipt. If the grower has a large area to plant and cannot accomplish this quickly, they would be advised to pot out those plants that they cannot get in the ground. When planting containerized plants, be on the lookout for root bound plants. If the root system is very dense in the pot, cut through the root zone and tease the sections of root apart before planting. A root bound plant is more susceptible to winter heaving.

Weekly Berry Call – May 26, 2010

NY NASS Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, May 23, 2010

Station	Temperature (°F)				Growing Degree Days Base 50° 1/			Precipitation (Inches) 1/			
	High	Low	Avg	Dep. from Norm	Week	Season	Dep. from Norm	Week	Dep. from Norm	Season	Dep. from Norm
Hudson Valley											
Albany	85	40	62	+4	86	333	+142	0.20	-0.57	3.02	-2.44
Glens Falls	83	35	60	+3	71	256	+110	0.24	-0.60	3.61	-2.03
Poughkeepsie	86	39	62	+2	82	381	+155	0.64	+0.34	3.51	-3.19
Mohawk Valley											
Boonville	80	40	60	+6	71	197	+96	0.05	-0.93	4.82	-3.05
Champlain Valley											
Plattsburgh	81	37	60	+3	69	227	+80	0.01	-0.62	3.33	-1.54
St. Lawrence Valley											
Canton	81	37	60	+5	74	240	+115	0.00	-0.68	3.46	-1.57
Massena	81	38	62	+6	84	254	+112	0.09	-0.47	2.57	-1.92
Great Lakes											
Buffalo	84	45	62	+5	88	306	+130	0.27	-0.43	4.91	-0.23
Wales	81	39	58	+3	59	235	+108	0.34	-0.47	5.30	-1.09
Niagara Falls	81	43	62	+5	87	316	+125	0.08	-0.57	4.82	-0.48
Rochester	80	42	63	+5	90	355	+158	0.26	-0.37	4.05	-0.55
Watertown	84	35	62	+7	87	261	+132	0.01	-0.62	2.91	-1.57
Central Lakes											
Dansville	82	38	59	+2	65	290	+110	0.48	-0.16	4.57	-0.32
Geneva	83	41	62	+5	84	314	+145	0.20	-0.48	4.40	-0.66
Honeoye	83	36	61	+4	80	329	+156	0.22	-0.41	4.67	-0.33
Ithaca	83	36	60	+4	71	291	+146	0.22	-0.55	4.65	-0.65
Penn Yan	84	41	62	+5	87	353	+184	0.31	-0.37	4.19	-0.87
Syracuse	84	41	63	+5	94	358	+161	0.02	-0.72	3.72	-2.01
Warsaw	81	42	58	+5	62	229	+118	0.32	-0.46	6.04	+0.13
Western Plateau											
Angelica	82	39	59	+5	63	251	+141	0.59	-0.08	5.55	+0.71
Elmira	85	36	60	+4	74	317	+157	0.47	-0.26	4.93	-0.06
Franklinville	82	35	56	+3	45	186	+100	0.37	-0.42	5.95	+0.12
Jamestown	82	43	58	+4	57	236	+124	0.93	+0.02	6.58	-0.09
Eastern Plateau											
Binghamton	81	44	61	+4	77	344	+192	0.30	-0.47	4.75	-0.86
Cobleskill	82	37	59	+4	68	240	+106	0.32	-0.52	3.93	-1.99
Morrisville	84	40	60	+5	74	245	+119	0.02	-0.82	5.49	-0.27
Norwich	84	36	60	+4	68	231	+92	0.05	-0.79	5.01	-1.09
Oneonta	83	38	59	+5	68	247	+127	0.22	-0.76	5.41	-1.24
Coastal											
Bridgehamton	79	42	60	+4	74	306	+157	1.64	+0.80	5.17	-1.65
New York	85	51	65	+3	106	588	+259	0.95	+0.11	5.42	-1.23

1/ Season accumulations are for April 1st to date. Weekly accumulations are through 7:00 AM Sunday Morning. The information contained in this weekly release is obtained in cooperation with Cornell Cooperative Extension, USDA Farm Service Agency, the National Weather Service, Agricultural Weather Information Service and other knowledgeable persons associated with New York agriculture. Their cooperation is greatly appreciated. **Visit our website at www.nass.usda.gov/ny and click on "subscribe to NY reports" for instructions on subscribing electronically. You may also visit our website to access all our reports which are available for free online.**