

Weekly Berry Call – July 6, 2011

Participants: Kevin Schooley (Ottawa, Ontario Berry Growers Assoc., NASGA Exec. Director), Laura McDermott (Eastern NY/Upper Hudson/Lower Adirondack), Marvin Pritts (Finger Lakes region/Ithaca), Courtney Weber (NYSAES Geneva), Dale Ila Riggs (Stephentown, Eastern NY), Sharon Bachman (Erie Co.)

Growing conditions: (courtesy NY NASS)

Week ending July 3, 2011: The first full week of summer 2011 provided temperatures at or slightly below seasonable normals with rainfall amounts offering a variety of results. Portions of western New York were drier than normal with portions of eastern New York averaging near normal. Severe weather reports were notable on Tuesday, June 28th across upstate New York. We began the period rather cool and unsettled with an upper level low in our region. This was replaced with a region of high pressure for the early part of the week as a storm system was developing over the center of the nation. This storm approached on Tuesday with showers and thunderstorms. By Wednesday a slightly cooler and more stable airmass filtered across the Great Lakes region and into portions of New England. This region of high pressure remained dominant for the remainder of the week with little additional rainfall.

Reports from the Field

Stephentown, Eastern NY – Still picking strawberries but will be done before the weekend (July 9). Summer raspberries (actually Polana and Autumn Britten kept for two crops) in the high tunnel are gorgeous – huge 1.25” fruit and delicious. The primocanes also look great. Blackberries in tunnel also look great. The blueberries are almost ready – size looks wonderful. Had lots of rain over the weekend.

Eastern NY/Upper Hudson/Lower Adirondacks – Very erratic weather pattern bringing lots of very heavy (up to 4” in some areas, most getting about an inch in an hour) showers that are localized. This has made pest control difficult and also field work impossible in some areas. Strawberry season was down 20-50% in most areas. Blueberries look mostly quite good – a few spots that the fruit set is very poor, and most places the berry size may help an average fruit set. Brown Marmorated Stink Bug nymphs and egg masses found in the capital district.

Ithaca – Black raspberries in HT look spectacular. Showers over the weekend missed Ithaca and now they are in a rather extended dry season with lots of sun.

Geneva – Very rough strawberry season – just too wet even to get trials planted. Have not had rain in over 2 weeks. Just began picking summer bearing raspberries in HT a week ago (late June). Powdery mildew is showing up on susceptible varieties, pressure caused by such high humidity. So much mildew on Canby fruit that it is not marketable. More information about varieties in report below.

Western NY/Lake Erie – Dry all last week – actually getting a little too dry! Duke blueberry has started picking. There have been a few individual sightings of Brown Marmorated Stink bug in the region. These samples were sent to the Hudson Valley lab.



Two apple leaves showing egg masses in groups of 28 eggs exactly. This is how Brown Marmorated Stink Bug lays eggs. The leaf on left, with white eggs is BMSB. The mass on right with darker color eggs is a native stink bug. Both of these egg masses were found by general visual observation and both on the lower limbs of trees.

Guest Speaker Dr. Courtney Weber, Cornell University NYSAES, Geneva.

Dr. Weber is the small fruit breeder for Cornell University and spoke with us about some of his ongoing field trials. The summer raspberry varieties in the high tunnel are being challenged by Powdery Mildew and ‘Canby’ has not held up. The vegetation in the tunnel is extremely heavy adding to the challenge. ‘Prelude’ is done picking, but 1st fruit was delivered on June 27th which was 9 days later than last year. ‘Killarney’ and ‘Moutere’ harvest is ongoing. This early material is a bit disappointing – the plants did not seem

to thrive (especially ‘Encore’), and ‘Killarney’ fruit size was not spectacular. ‘Titan’ and ‘Encore’ is just beginning, and this fruit size seems MUCH better than early season varieties. K81-6 has not started picking yet. The goal is to have fruit from mid-June to end of July. ‘Nova’ is only in outside trials, not the HT yet.

Weekly Berry Call – July 6, 2011

Primocane trial – 7 varieties are being evaluated.

- Autumn Britten – very nice looking, but the fruit is dark.
- Joan J – thornless – long production run, fruit is dark but very firm – almost rubbery. Shelf life is good.
- Himbo Top – brightest color
- Caroline – very vigorous but still productive
- Jacqueline – best tasting berry but very hard to pick
- Crimson Giant – later than Heritage and has better color

No Josephine in the trial, it is later than Heritage but more vigorous. The color is dark and has large fruit.

The Day Neutral strawberry trial was a challenge to get started. It was a very difficult planting season and the dormant crowns did not get into the ground until mid-June. The same varieties will also be planted in early August as well. The plants have been sourced from different nurseries. Included in the trial are: Evie-2, Tribute, Albion, Seascape, Portola. Chandler is not included – this variety is mostly grown in North Carolina and is popular with some of the folks growing for Farmers' markets as it allows them to get very early berries when planted as rooted cuttings in the early autumn.

The key to early planting may be to get field fit and plastic down in the fall so that spring planting goes seamlessly. They do this in Quebec and it works well.

Other variety trials include a June Bearer trial on plastic. 'Ovation' seems to do better on plastic than it does in a matted row. Jewel, Clancy and Seneca will be evaluated for their performance on plastic. The matted row trial includes:

- 'AC Valley Sunset' – late and large – so large that the uneven ripening where there is an obvious shade and sun side. The eating quality is very good, and a vigorous plant.
- 'Record' which is a darker color replacement for 'Idea'
- 'Ovation' is a nice late bloomer therefore avoiding frost, but it underperforms in a matted row.

For more information about berry varieties, check out the Cornell Berry website: <http://www.fruit.cornell.edu/index.html>

Questions?

Can you recommend some nice firm berries that will stand up to rain for the duration of the season?

- Wendy – an early firm berry that has Verticillium problems
- L'Amour – is a mid-season firm that did pretty well this year despite rain
- Jewel – not as firm as one would like, but still the best mid-season berry out there
- Clancy – a mid-late berry, firm but doesn't ripen well.
- AC Valley Sunset – late firm with potential uneven ripening mentioned above

Also 'Seneca' – VERY firm, almost crunchy, but it tends to develop off flavors. It also doesn't run well and needs to be planted at 12" or less in the row. It will bear mid-season at the same time as Jewel, which outperforms it in good weather seasons.

Troubleshooting:

How are sap beetles handled in NYS? Some success with traps baited with bread dough yeast as a way to remove them from field. Brigade has helped for a while. Now we are finding sap beetles in the fields BEFORE the fruit is ripe. It will help if pickers can remove all berries from field – including the junk, in order to clean up the field and reduce sap beetle pressure.

Sugar solution – bird control? 200 lbs of sugar dissolved in 40 gallons of water include a sticker. The birds cannot digest the sticky syrup and this does seem to help with bird control. Ancillary problems include yellow jackets and bees.

What does early mummy berry look like? See photo at right. To control mummy berry, remove the mulch under infected berries and reapply with fresh mulch next spring. Use Indar alternating with Pristine from 1/4" shoot to petal fall next year.

For flocking bird problems you can get a migratory bird depredation permit from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Then send approval to NYS DEC.

<http://www.fws.gov/forms/3-200-13.pdf>



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	
<u>Hudson Valley</u>												
Albany	86	54	70	+0	144	1103	+254	0.36	-0.43	14.17	+3.82	
Glens Falls	83	53	69	+2	133	926	+207	1.02	+0.33	13.68	+3.63	
Poughkeepsie	85	51	71	+1	148	1174	+273	0.55	-0.35	15.46	+3.45	
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>												
Boonville	77	51	63	-2	91	660	+120	0.46	-0.53	21.78	+7.73	
<u>Champlain Valley</u>												
Plattsburgh	84	53	68	+0	129	815	+77	0.30	-0.40	17.13	+8.08	
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>												
Canton	83	55	67	+0	118	846	+209	0.58	-0.19	15.42	+5.98	
Massena	86	55	70	+3	141	924	+240	0.09	-0.64	12.42	+3.79	
<u>Great Lakes</u>												
Buffalo	84	54	69	-2	132	980	+182	0.02	-0.73	17.30	+7.43	
Wales	84	49	65	-2	104	788	+163	0.10	-0.81	16.01	+4.11	
Niagara Falls	83	50	68	-2	129	927	+114	0.00	-0.71	14.17	+4.38	
Rochester	87	51	69	+2	137	1000	+210	0.00	-0.67	11.95	+3.35	
Watertown	85	52	68	+2	126	851	+221	0.06	-0.45	13.36	+5.26	
<u>Central Lakes</u>												
Dansville	90	52	71	+2	146	1163	+378	0.05	-0.77	11.62	+1.75	
Geneva	86	55	69	+0	132	968	+205	0.37	-0.42	12.25	+2.34	
Honeoye	87	49	67	-3	119	957	+166	0.39	-0.38	14.18	+4.38	
Ithaca	85	46	66	-2	111	912	+266	1.38	+0.54	16.31	+5.96	
Penn Yan	87	54	70	+2	139	1045	+282	0.42	-0.37	10.99	+1.08	
Syracuse	88	56	71	+3	148	1194	+395	0.25	-0.66	15.78	+4.99	
Warsaw	82	52	64	-2	99	752	+176	0.35	-0.56	17.73	+6.22	
<u>Western Plateau</u>												
Hornell Almond Dam	86	45	65	-2	106	836	+205	0.18	-0.66	16.58	+6.86	
Elmira	87	43	67	-1	123	994	+261	0.01	-0.83	13.49	+3.48	
Franklinville	83	44	63	-1	93	779	+274	0.07	-0.86	19.66	+8.21	
Jamestown	84	48	66	+2	112	888	+304	0.02	-0.99	18.56	+5.83	
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>												
Binghamton	82	51	67	-2	118	932	+224	0.86	+0.02	19.37	+8.92	
Cobleskill	82	52	66	+0	114	828	+175	0.12	-0.80	13.72	+2.22	
Morrisville	82	50	65	-1	109	782	+169	0.09	-0.81	15.38	+4.13	
Norwich	84	46	65	-2	109	864	+213	1.36	+0.47	20.41	+8.85	
Oneonta	83	46	66	+1	112	857	+261	0.91	-0.04	19.41	+7.03	
<u>Coastal</u>												
Bridgehamton	83	55	72	+3	153	983	+230	0.05	-0.70	11.91	+0.22	
New York	84	66	76	+2	184	1337	+176	0.03	-0.84	12.95	+1.38	

^{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.