

Issue 5 – June 24, 2026

Fruit Crop Report



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Provincial Overview

In general, across the province, berry development in strawberries and saskatoons are approximately one week later than normal. Saskatoons, sour cherry and chokecherry are in green fruit stage. Late season strawberry fields are in full to late bloom, while early and mid-season cultivars are at green fruit stage. Haskap harvest started late last week for some early season cultivars. Control fungicide sprays for fruit rot (*Botrytis* spp.) were applied in most strawberry fields with favorable disease development conditions. See [Ontario Crop Protection Hub](#) for registered control products for *Botrytis* spp. fruit rot. Control fungicide sprays are delayed in fields that experienced excessive rain and have saturated field conditions. Applications of iron foliar sprays are underway in strawberry fields showing iron chlorosis, caused by wet soil conditions, especially on soils with high (alkaline) soil pH.

2026 Horticulture School – Save the Date

[Horticulture School 2026](#) will be held Thursday July 30, 2026 at Assiniboine College Brandon campus. Manitoba Agriculture and Assiniboine College staff will present hands-on training sessions in the field for vegetable and fruit crop production. Sessions include Insect Pests & Diseases of Apples, Apple Pruning/Production, High Tunnel Fertility and Field Scouting for Insects. To register, please email carmela.samaniego@gov.mb.ca

Commercial Fruit Crops - Timely Topics

Fruit Crops

Yellowing Fruit Crop Leaves - Iron Chlorosis

Iron chlorosis is a common issue in fruit trees, berry crops, and some ornamentals grown in alkaline or heavy clay soils, where iron becomes unavailable to plants, leading to yellowing between the veins of young leaves while veins stay green. If untreated, leaves may turn brown, brittle, nearly white, and in severe cases plants can lose leaves or die. The condition may be triggered by high soil pH, excess phosphorus, low temperatures, or imbalances of copper and manganese, and can affect individual plants even when neighbors appear healthy. Treatment options include foliar iron sprays for quick but temporary relief, especially useful in saturated soils, and soil applied iron chelates, which offer longer-lasting improvement for fruit trees. Prevention focuses on improving drainage in wet soils and avoiding highly susceptible crops in persistently high-lime or heavy clay areas. See [Iron Chlorosis Fruit Crops](#) for more information

Report compiled by Anthony Mintenko
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Strawberries

Leaf Diseases

Conditions have been favorable for leaf disease development in strawberries, especially susceptible cultivars like Kent. Scout your fields to determine if any of the leaf diseases common here are becoming widespread across the field. See [Strawberry Leaf Diseases Common to Manitoba](#) for more information.

Chemical Controls

Many fungicides are registered for strawberry leaf diseases. See [Ontario Crop Protection Hub](#) for registered control products by leaf disease. Confirm on the label that products are registered for use in Manitoba (i.e. not restricted for use in eastern Canada or BC only).

Fungicide Efficacy Ratings for Common Leaf Spot (Ontario Crop Protection Hub)

High level control: Folpan 80, Bumper 432, Fitness, Princeton, Empire, Pristine

Control: Senator 50, Thief 50, Captan 480, Maestro 80, Supra Captan 80

Suppression Only: Luna Tranquility, LifeGard

Cultural Controls

Long term agronomic practices that can reduce leaf disease development include:

- Plant less susceptible cultivars.
- Remove old and infected leaves at renovation.
- Allow for good air flow across the field with sufficient spacing between rows.
- Avoid applying excess nitrogen fertilizer which can result in excess growth and dense canopies.
- Use of drip-irrigation systems to reduce water on leaves and reduce spread of fungal spores.

Raspberries

Pollinators and Visitors: Focus on Bees



Figure 1: Small Carpenter Bee on a raspberry leaf.

Raspberry flowers are visited by many insects and pollinators in Manitoba, including native and managed bees. When a bee visits a flower, pollen can get on its body; the transfer of that pollen to a different plant of the same species is called “cross pollination”. Bees, as well as other insects, may transfer the sticky pollen and pollinate flowers. Both female and male parts are on each flower of most cultivated raspberry varieties. Raspberry canes provide a nesting habitat for several insects. The pith in the cane is relatively soft and can be tunneled into. A hole in the pith is a sign that an insect may be in the broken cane. Some native bees that nest in raspberry cane include the small carpenter bee (Figure 1), yellow-faced bees and leafcutter bees. See [Raspberry Pollinators](#) for more information.

Saskatoons

Opportunity to Contribute to Saskatoon Research Project

"S'2n: Innovative Saskatoon berry breeding using Manitoba's cross-compatible diploid accessions" a collaboration between Prairie Fruit Growers Association and the University of Saskatchewan's fruit program (led by Dr. Anže Švara - Fruit Genetics and Breeding), received Sustainable CAP funding. This [research](#) will focus on breeding new saskatoon berry cultivars by identifying new diverse saskatoon berry plants, testing them for production and integrating them into the breeding program. This work could set foundations for long-term streamlined breeding of saskatoons and contribute to a new boost for growers and industry.

To maximize the impacts of the project, we need your help. Select your favorite wild Saskatoon patch, that produces lots of berries and send seeds that you think are worthwhile to include in the study. Below are the instructions for material collection and shipping:

Seeds from Berries

- Collect seeds when berries are ripe in July.
- Extract seeds from the berry and pack in a paper envelope.
- Include the following information on a paper in the envelope:
 - Plant location
 - Bush or plant growth habits
 - Berry or fruit size (mm wide)
 - Flavor description
 - Any unique or noteworthy traits
- Mail to: Dr. Anže Švara, U of S, Fruit Program, Plant Science Department, 51 Campus Drive, Saskatoon, SK, S7N 5A8

2026 Census of Agriculture

Every five years, the Census of Agriculture gives a statistical overview of Canada's agriculture sector. Responses from fruit producers are important to provide an accurate assessment of Manitoba's fruit industry. Farmers and farm operators were sent an invitation letter May 2026 with instructions on how to complete the [2026 Census of Agriculture](#) questionnaire online. Please take the time to complete the questionnaire to support the fruit crops segment of Manitoba's and Canada's agricultural industry.