

Issue 6 – July 8, 2026

Fruit Crop Report



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Provincial Overview

Strawberry harvesting started the last week of June into early July. Higher volumes of berries will be harvested this week. Fields have adequate moisture and should see good sizing of berries. Strawberry fields in regions with saturated field conditions and/or continuous wet foliage conditions (rain, dew) are reporting high fruit rot (*Botrytis* spp. and *Anthraco*) issues, reducing marketable yields. Strawberry cultivars, more susceptible to leaf diseases, such as Kent, are showing higher incidence of leaf diseases overall. Strawberry growers with higher levels of fruit rot should indicate to customers that they should utilize/freeze berries right after picking as shelf life will be very short. There have been repeated applications of iron foliar sprays in strawberry and raspberry fields showing iron chlorosis, caused by wet soil conditions, especially on soils with high (alkaline) soil pH. Haskap harvesting is wrapping up with later season cultivars. Yields are estimated to be average to above average so far. Saskatoon harvesting of early varieties (i.e. Thiessen, Martin) started this week. Expecting bulk of harvesting to start third week of July, 7-10 days later than normal. Sour cherries have started to colour up and ripen. Preliminary control sprays for spotted wing drosophila (SWD) have started. Raspberry fields are in late green fruit stage. Good fruit set in most apple orchards.

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

Spotted Wing Drosophila - Berry Crops Insect Pest

Spotted wing drosophila (SWD) populations are expected to increase throughout July. Upcoming raspberry and sour cherry harvests will require control of SWD once berries start to colour up. Last picking of strawberries may require control as well, depending on harvest time.

Consider a SWD control application using products with pre-harvest intervals (PHI) of 1-2 days. Spraying at dawn or dusk is the most effective time for control. Weekly applications of approved insecticides are quite effective at controlling SWD and protecting the berry harvest from damage.

Refer to [Management of Spotted Wing Drosophila in Berry Crops](#) for control options in saskatoons, strawberries and raspberries. Use apple cider vinegar traps as an indicator of when SWD are present and the crushed berry salt test to determine population levels.

Report compiled by Anthony Mintenko
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Harvest ripe berries frequently and cool berries quickly after harvest. SWD stop growing in the berry and eventually die at cool refrigerator temperatures. Remove unmarketable fruit and crush in alleyways. Consider harvesting dwarf sour cherries 7-8 days before fully ripe to maintain marketable quality fruit. For example, harvesting when cherries are bright red but not a black cherry colour. Sugars levels will not be at their maximum, but these are tart cherries and that tartness is expected from the consumer. See [SWD in Berry Crops](#) for more information.

Fireblight in Raspberries and Apples

Many members of the Rose Family, like raspberries and apples, are susceptible to fireblight bacteria (*Erwinia amylovora*) (Figure 1 and 2). Fireblight can be an issue in these fruit crops when environmental conditions are favourable for infection, including temperatures warmer than 18°C, high humidity, heavy dews, and overall moist conditions. Raspberry cultivars Boyne, Fallgold and K81-6 are quite susceptible to fireblight, while other cultivars such as Nova and Royalty can be less susceptible. More information available at [Fireblight in Fruit Crops](#) and [Fireblight Control Strategies in Raspberries](#).

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