

Issue 2 – May 22, 2024

Fruit Crop Report



[Seasonal Reports](#)

[Weekly Weather Maps](#)

[Fruit Crops Production](#)

[Vegetable Crops Report](#)

Provincial Overview

Saskatoons, sour cherries, and plums are in full to late bloom. With the recent rain events during the saskatoon flowering period, growers are applying fungicides to prevent *Entomosporium* Leaf and Berry Spot disease (see article below). Straw mulch has been removed off all strawberry fields. Most strawberry fields showed good winter survival. Strawberry growers continue to transplant into new fields. Growers will be planting nearly 800,000 strawberry transplants in 2024. Raspberry cane leaves have emerged with good winter survival.



Figure 1: Sour cherry flowers.

Commercial Fruit Crops- Timely Topics

Saskatoons

Protecting Your Saskatoon Yields from Leaf and Berry Spot Disease

A simple way to sum up Saskatoon Berry Disease Management is to remember the phrase...

Protect the flowers from rain showers.



Figure 2: White tip stage in Saskatoons.

Application of a recommended fungicide to ensure the flowers are protected from disease causing fungi is often necessary in Manitoba. The primary disease of saskatoon plants in the spring is *Entomosporium* Leaf and Berry Spot disease. If *Entomosporium* inoculum are present in an orchard at full bloom, then ideally **a fungicide application should be made within 4 days of a rain event.** With the recent rain events during bloom and warmer temperatures, conditions are favourable for disease development. A second fungicide application should be applied, if at least 7 days have elapsed since the first application, especially if rain has fallen during that time period.

Plants that are left unprotected during a rainfall are at great risk of severe crop losses. If a disease outbreak caused crop losses the previous year in your orchards, the favourable conditions this year may see more disease, if no attempts at management are made. Once the flowers and fruit are infected, those fruit are unmarketable. Fortunately, dry conditions in 2023 resulted in low disease levels, so levels of leaf and berry spot spores available to infect plants will likely be lower.

Due to the influence of environmental factors on plant development, the time and duration of the bloom period will vary from year to year and from location to location.

Report compiled by Anthony Mintenko
Fruit Crop Specialist, Manitoba Agriculture
[Subscribe](#) to the Fruit Crop Report

Timing for fungicide applications is often based on an estimate of when a certain proportion of the flower buds are fully open. For purposes of pest management, the term "full bloom" refers to the point at which the majority of flowers in the orchard are fully open; by this time some will be past full bloom, while others will be at earlier stages. See [protecting-saskatoon-yields.pdf \(manitoba.ca\) for more information.](#)

Strawberries

Care of Nursery Plants Prior to Planting

Plants will keep in storage at 1° to 3.3°C for up to two weeks. Once temperatures rise above this level, rot develops and drying occurs more quickly. Do not refrigerate plants that have initiated any growth. Temperatures of 4.4° to 10°C can be permitted temporarily, provided the plants are checked frequently for mold development. Take plants out of cold storage the day of planting and cover them with a tarp until they are to be planted. Plants should be watered to keep the roots from drying out during planting. A cold, cloudy day is preferred to a hot, windy day for planting.

For temporary storage, plant boxes should be put in a shaded, cool location. If planting must be delayed and cold storage facilities are unavailable, keep plants as cool as possible and check for mold periodically. Plants can be safely kept for seven to ten days in this manner.

Avoid plants from bundles that have grey mold on the roots when they are unpacked. Discard plants with mold development on the upper root and lower crown areas.

[Province of Manitoba | agriculture - Strawberry - Care of Nursery Plants Prior to Planting](#)

High Tunnel Strawberry Trial Update

Early Season Strawberry Production in a High Tunnel Trial

June-bearing strawberries started last August have started flowering and forming berries. Day-neutral strawberries were planted mid-April and early May in the high tunnel as well.