

Issue 1 – April 29, 2026

Fruit Crop Report



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Provincial Overview

Welcome to the first fruit crop report for 2026. Bud-break has not occurred for many fruit crop trees, which is still normal for late April. Throughout March and into April dormant pruning of fruit trees like saskatoons and apples occurred. Strawberry fields are still covered with straw mulch as it is still early for plants to be uncovered. The risk of hard frosts occurring (lower than -5°C) is still high in late April and early May. Expect straw mulch removal the second week of May and later.

Soil moisture readings at the 0-30 cm depth are wet for most regions as of April 26, 2026. Localized areas of the Interlake, Northern, Central, and Eastern regions are showing very wet conditions. Soil moisture data is available from the Manitoba Agriculture Weather Program and Environment and Climate Change Canada weather stations throughout Manitoba (see weekly weather maps link above). [Subscribe](#) to Manitoba Agriculture's Weekly Crop Weather Report to receive a weekly distribution of seasonal reports and maps by email.

Commercial Fruit Crops- Timely Topics

Strawberries

When to Remove Straw Mulch

Remove mulch in the spring as new growth begins and new leaves become a light-yellow colour. This normally occurs between late April and early May for most locations (later this year), once the risk of hard frosts has passed, greater than -5°C typically. Check long range weather forecasts to help determine the risk of hard frosts.

Remove excess straw from the rows and aisles with a side delivery rake or specialty rake. Rotary mowers are also an excellent way of removing straw. The rotating blades place the straw into the aisles. Two passes over the rows will do a complete job.

Partial mulch removal delays development without harming growth. This practice can be used to delay bloom development and avert early frost damage to mature blooms.

Moving the straw mulch between the rows in the spring helps keep berries clean, conserves moisture, suppresses weeds and provides a pleasant picking area (source guide to *Commercial Strawberry Production on the Prairies*).

Report compiled by Anthony Mintenko
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2026 New and Updated Berry Miticide, Fungicide and Herbicide Labels

Below are tables outlining new and updated berry pesticide labels for 2026. This is a guide only, confirm on product label for information on rate, preharvest interval, restricted entry interval, efficacy, and comments. See [Pesticide Label Search - Health Canada](#) (see tables 1,2,3).

Table 1: Updated Berry Miticide Label for 2026

Product & Group#	Fruit Crop	Pest	Remarks
Magister Group 21	Raspberry, Strawberry, Saskatoons	Two-spotted Spider Mite	Avoid applying when bees are active.
<p>To search for products for use on berry crops visit Ontario Crop Protection Hub https://live-uncrops.cloud.contensis.com/control-solutions/fruit-pest-control Confirm on label if registered for use in Manitoba, no restrictions on regions (i.e. BC only, etc.). The product label is a legal document and label instructions must be followed. The information provided in the protection hub application is general information only.</p>			

Table 2: New and Updated Berry Fungicide Labels for 2026

Product & Group#	Fruit Crop	Pest	Remarks
Orondis Gold Group 4+49	strawberry	Pytophthora crown rot mould (suppression only), red stele	Apply in minimum 800 L water/ acre.
Ecoswing Group BM1	Strawberry, raspberry, currants	Botrytis grey mould (partial suppression only);	PHI=0 days
LifeGard WG Group P6	strawberry	Anthrachnose, Botrytis grey mould (suppression only), common leaf spot (suppression only)	Product activates plants defense mechanism. Apply before infection.
LifeGard WG Group P6	Raspberry, Currants	Botrytis grey mould (suppression only)	Product activates plants defense mechanism. Apply before infection.
Buran Group NC	Raspberry, Saskatoons	Fire Blight	Active ingredient is garlic powder.
Tivano Plus Group NC	Strawberry	Angular leaf spot, Powdery Mildew (suppression only)	Active ingredients are citric and lactic acid.
Gatten Group U13	Strawberry, Sour Cherry	Powdery Mildew	Apply to cherry foliage during fruiting stage using airblast ground sprayers.
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Table 3: Updated Berry Herbicide Labels for 2026

Product & Group#	Fruit Crop	Weed	Remarks
Lontrel XC Group 4	Raspberry	Emerged broadleaf weeds, systemic, especially effective on Canada Thistle.	Apply as banded application a minimum of 0.5 metre on either side of the plant row to actively growing weeds. Not all raspberry cultivars have been tested for tolerance, test small area first before using. Avoid contact with foliage. PHI=30 days.
Lontrel XC Group 4	Saskatoons	Emerged broadleaf weeds, systemic, especially effective on Canada Thistle in the rosette to pre-bud weed stage.	Wiper, spot application or shielded sprayers. Avoid contact with foliage. Can apply in the fall after saskatoons are dormant or early spring before bud-break. PHI=45 days.
Lontrel XC Group 4	Haskap (aka edible honeysuckle)	Emerged broadleaf weeds, systemic, especially effective on Canada Thistle in the rosette to pre-bud weed stage.	Wiper, spot application or shielded sprayers. Avoid contact with foliage or wood. Apply post harvest. PHI=30 days.
Lontrel XC, Pyralid herbicide Group 4	Strawberry (at renovation)	Emerged broadleaf weeds, systemic, especially effective on Canada Thistle, Sheep Sorrel, Ox-eye Daisy.	Delay mowing off strawberries 7-10 days after applying. Apply post harvest at renovation.
Poast Ultra Discontinued	X	X	Discontinued for all crops, last date of use is December 2027 .
Betamix Discontinued	X	X	Discontinued for strawberries effective 2025.
<p>To search for products for use on berry crops visit Ontario Crop Protection Hub Weed control search https://cropprotectionhub.omafra.gov.on.ca/control-solutions/field-crop-weed-control Confirm on label if registered for use in Manitoba, no restrictions on regions (i.e. BC only, etc.). The product label is a legal document and label instructions must be followed. The information provided in the protection hub application is general information only.</p>			

Label update information from Erica Pate, Fruit Crops Specialist (Berries) with Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) [Berry Crop Protection Update 2026 – ONfruit](#) from February 3, 2026.