

Small Fruit Update



News and opinions from [Peerbolt Crop Management](#) and [NWIPM](#) sent out weekly during the growing season, and sporadically when we have something to share in the off season.

February 11, 2010

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[You Tube link of the week](#): The Oregon Blackberry and Marion berry Certification Program's promotional video funded by the Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission.
[The Weather Cafe](#) by Rufus La Lone
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Regional Reports

These reports are from individuals within the region and are their particular observations. They are included to give an impression of the present 'state of the industry' and regional activities.

British Columbia, Fraser Valley

- **Blueberries:** (2/8/10)
Things are way ahead of the norm in the Fraser Valley. Daytime temps over 50F the last few days with nights in the high thirties to forties. Most blueberry varieties are showing green bud with some almost at bud burst (Earliblue) on lighter soil! Elliot thankfully still tight. The soil will start to warm up if this trend continues, then things will really start to move. I hate to think that the Mummyberry control season may get seriously pushed up.
- **Raspberries:** (2/8/10)
Raspberries don't seem to be moving as fast with the exception of Malahat, which has pushed out some terminal bud leaves in some fields. Baby plantings are greening. Bud swell is evident in Chemainus. Meekers are still staying fairly tight yet. Going to have to get going on lime sulphur soon.

Whatcom County, Northern Washington

(2/5/10) Some growers are cutting down wild cherry trees, wild blackberries, thimbleberry and salmonberry around the borders of fields to remove potential Spotted Wing Drosophila habitat.

- **Blueberries:** (2/5/10)
Blueberries swelling. Mice real active chewing on roots. Last year's shock damage is evident with brushy branching pattern. Tried some Chilean blueberries, good quality but bland flavor.
- **Raspberries:** (2/5/10)

Disseminating information for:

Washington

[Washington Red Raspberry Commission](#)
[Washington Blueberry Commission](#)
[Washington Strawberry Commission](#)

Oregon

[Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission](#)
[Oregon Blueberry Commission](#)
[Oregon Strawberry Commission](#)

British Columbia

[Fraser Valley Strawberry Growers Association](#)
[Raspberry Industry Development Council](#)
[B.C. Blueberry Council](#)

Baby raspberries are budding. It's close to lime sulfur time. Some fields are not tied yet. Growers better get going.

Skagit County, Northern Washington

- **Blueberries:** (2/8/10)

Finished up a copper & Entrust application on the organic blueberries (Mustang on the conventional). Lots of spanworm in the Reka, Duke and Toro, Just a few in Bluejay, nothing in Liberty & Elliot. Some green tissue on the buds; we'll be into lime sulfur next round. Finished up weed mat installation in organic Bluejay and Liberty; some quackgrass pushing through the new weed mat already and starting to see some voles cutting holes in the mat too (the down side of weed mat); so, we have bait stations out.

- **Blueberries:** (2/5/10)

Plants are still showing the stress from last year. Of course, some fields worse than others (mine especially), but all have some symptoms. As stated, plants are way, way too far along for this time of year. Along these lines, starlings are nesting with first clutch, sea birds are coming in to nest (usually doesn't happen until about May!!!) and flowers are coming on. None of these are good signs. Wondering if we should skip the full dormant spray and proceed as if it is late spring???

- **Blackberries:** (2/8/10)

Finished tying up the Chesters, which are swelling. Black Diamonds are pushing buds hard now. We cut the organic Chesters short; so, we can remove early tip fruit by hand to try to avoid the two spotted fly. We moved two fans over into the blackberries from an apple block we removed, just in case: soil temps in mid 40's.

Willamette Valley, Oregon and SW Washington

- (2/5/10) It's no wonder things are moving so quickly; looking at the weather data from NWREC, 41.5 growing degree days were accumulated in January, 2010 (versus 8 in Jan, 2009 and fewer than that in most years). To put that into perspective, there were only 44 growing degree days accumulated here in March 2008 and 45 growing degree days accumulated in March, 2009 (both abnormally cold for a March). Mean soil temps at the 2 inch depth range from the low to mid-40's, almost warm enough to support microbial activity. Let's hope things remain on the mild side!

Meetings

February 17—Oregon Strawberry Commission Annual meeting~ 8:30am -1:30pm. North Willamette Research and Extension Center, Aurora, OR. Contact Philip Gutt or call the commission office at 541-758-4043 for more information.

February 24-26—North American Blueberry Commission (NABC) & U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council (USHBC) meeting~ Phoenix, AZ. Embassy Suites Hotel. Phoenix Airport at 44th St. [Click here](#) for registration and other information.

February 24-26—The North American Raspberry & Blackberry (NARBA) Conference~ Monterey, California. 20 educational sessions and 3 pre/post conference tours are scheduled. This is NARBA's annual meeting (formerly called North American Bramble Growers Association). The host hotel is the [Beach Resort Monterey](#). For further information about sponsoring, exhibiting, or attending, contact: NARBA, 1138 Rock Rest Rd., Pittsboro, NC 27312. 919-542-4037, info@raspberryblackberry.com, www.raspberryblackberry.com.

March 3—5th Annual Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission Grower Workshop~ 8:30am-3:30pm. Woodburn, Wellspring Center. [Click here](#) for the agenda. While there is **no charge**, food and space are limited; so, please let us know by February 23rd if you're planning to attend. Call (503-289-7287) or email [Beth Unger](mailto:Beth.Unger@oregonstate.edu) at the Peerbolt Crop Management office.

March 4th & 5th—Spotted Wing Drosophila Workshops~ OSU Extension has scheduled 4 half-day training sessions for growers and fieldmen. While there is **no charge**, space is limited and registration is required. [Click here](#) for the details and registration information.

Industry News/Resources

Market Newsletter: *The Source* for 2/10/10: [Click here](#) (from Produce News)

Northwest

- **National Processed Raspberry Marketing Order documents finally published by USDA and set for grower vote March 22-April 2:** *More readable material will be available very soon, but here are the official documents:* [Click here](#) for the Final Order document. [Click here](#) for the Referendum Procedures document.
- **Blueberry 2009 crop yield figures from commission assessments**
 - **Washington:** So far the Washington Blueberry Commission has collected assessments on approximately 38 million pounds. This is up from about 30 million pounds last year.
 - **Oregon:** The latest assessment report shows a total of 46,843,000 lbs. with 23,671,000 processed, 20,454,000 fresh market and 2,719,000 on-farm sales. A few growers have yet to report but no major additions are anticipated.
- **British Columbia 2009 Raspberries:** The Raspberry Industry Development Council reports that approximately 21.8 million pounds were assessed.
- **NASS released Oregon berry statistics (January 27, 2010):** [Click here](#).
- **Oregon State released Ag. Sales report:** [Click here](#) for the full report. Small fruits and berries were down over 41% from 2008. Need to search a little, but this has a wealth of information. Not much of it positive for berry crops.
- **Oregon farm sales drop, 2010 may not be better:** [Click here](#) (2/9, Oregonian) The story on the above report.
- **Ruling may muzzle (bird scare) cannons:** [Click here](#) (2/1, Abbotsford News)

National

- **Illegal immigrant population falls for second year in a row:** [Click here](#) (2/10, The Packer)
- (Florida) **Florida growers grappling with after effects of unprecedented freeze:** [Click here](#) (2/10, The Produce News)
- **Fuel prices expected to rise in 2010 and 2011:** [Click here](#) (2/5, The Produce News)
- (Cal) **Storms causing strawberry shortage:** [Click here](#) (2/5, Monterey County-The Herald)
- **President wants to end wealthy farmers' crop subsidies:** [Click here](#) (2/1, Reuters)

International

- **Chilean Fresh Fruit Association gets clarification on the USDA "Buy American" School Foodservice Provision:** [Click here](#) (2/10, Freshplaza.com)
- **Chile's fresh fruit industry focuses on U.S. market:** [Click here](#) (2/1, PerishableNews.com)

Health/Nutrition

- **Blueberries counteract intestinal diseases:** [Click here](#) (2/9, Science Daily)

Classifieds

Interested in having your fields scouted/monitored this season for SWD and/or other pests and diseases?

- Peerbolt Crop Management is in the process of hiring our scouts and planning out our season.
- If you want information or scouting services we need to know very soon so we know how many scouts we need to hire and train.
- The area we presently cover is from SW Washington down to the Corvallis area.
- In addition to individual growers we can also work with processors setting up programs for their growers.
- Get a hold of us for information at info@peerbolt.com or call Beth at the office at 503-289-7287.

General Manager Position Available

Eastern Washington agribusiness operation is seeking an experienced General Manager for their Berry Processing Facility. Position is responsible for the manufacturing of high quality fresh and frozen fruit products with maximum efficiency. The General Manager plans, organizes, and directs the activities of staff. Submit a cover letter, resume with salary history, and three professional references. Competitive salary. Full benefits. Relocation assistance. Submit resume to employment@wyckoff-farms.com.

New Pest Management & IPM Information

- **Alert: Winter Moth/ Bruce Span Worm blueberries:** Getting reports on span worm larvae feeding on blueberry buds in Northern Washington and British Columbia. Scouting for winter moth larvae should start now especially if

you've had problems before. Northern planting areas have traditionally had much larger populations, but outbreaks have also caused major economic damage in the southern areas.

- **Spotted Wing Drosophila, all berries:**
 - **March 4th & 5th Oregon State Extension has scheduled 4 half-day training sessions for growers and fieldmen.** Space is limited and registration is required. [Click here](#) for the details and registration information.
 - **Results of December chemical control efficacy trials in raspberries:** [Click here](#) for Mark Bolda's recent efficacy trials. There are encouraging indications in these trials on the length of time suppression gotten from a single application. Looks like around two or three weeks.
- **Light Brown Apple Moth rears its hazardous head again:** [Click here](#) (2/6, San Luis Obispo Tribune) Developments around this new California pest need to be watched closely in the northwest berry crops. The quarantines surrounding it seem to be doing more economic damage than the pest. The larvae are indistinguishable from Orange Tortrix larvae so I.D. is very problematic.
- **Birds, blueberries. Starling management:** Right now starlings are beginning to fledge. Population control becomes very difficult later into the season because they multiply rapidly. This is a major pest species. [Click here](#) for a starling fact sheet. [Click here](#) for the Okanagan grape grower starling trapping program. This is a well documented and well run starling management plan.
- **Scale blueberries:** A dormant oil or [Esteem](#) (pyriproxyfen) can be used while blueberries are dormant.
- **Leafroller larvae blueberries:** This is a minor pest at this time of year but has on occasion been reported to cause economic damage. Scout for buds held tightly together with webbing.
- **New brochure provides guidance on reducing pesticide harm to pollinators:** [Click here](#). This is the result of a partnership between Syngenta, Bayer CropScience and the Center for Urban/Rural Environmental Stewardship.

Ongoing Pest Management Information

Diseases

- **[Pseudomonas \(Bacterial Blight\)](#) blueberries:** Water-soaked lesions usually appear at this time of year on canes in some fields that then develop into reddish brown to black cankers. Cankers may extend from a fraction of an inch to the entire length of 1-year-old wood. Buds in cankers die. If girdled, the cane portion above the canker dies.
Recommended management: The lesions now being seen are the effects of past infections. To prevent future lesions from forming, copper sprays are recommended starting when the temperatures get warmer, usually around mid-February in the Willamette Valley and SW Washington. Good coverage is essential with copper.
- **[Voles:](#)** Vole activity is apparent in some blueberry and caneberry fields. Management of voles is most effective in the spring before they start multiplying like...voles. Kind of like weeds—get them before their reproduction cycle kicks in. [Click here](#) for some background and biology information on voles (or meadow mice). [Click here](#) for information on how to construct bait stations.

Crop work

All crops: Scout for voles and treat as needed.

Blueberries—

- Finish pruning- apply Bordeaux or copper after pruning.
- Scout for winter moth/span worm and treat as needed.
- Scout for bud damage & determine cause.
- Dormant oil can be applied for scale and winter moth egg control.
- Can apply Casoron (dichlobenil) or Chateau for weed control.

Blackberries—

- Don't begin training down Marion berries until after threat of damaging cold weather is passed.
- Can apply Casoron (dichlobenil) for weed control. Especially good on quackgrass.

Evergreen Blackberries—

- Can apply a dormant spray of lime/sulfur or elemental sulfur in mid-February for Redberry mites.

Raspberries—

- Can apply Casoron (dichlobenil) for weed control. Especially good on quackgrass.

Strawberries—

- Can apply pre-emergent herbicides. One choice--Spartan (sulfentrazone) until February 28. It's off label after that date.