

Small Fruit Update



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

February 23, 2010

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[You Tube link of the week](#): Augusta Bixler Farms- Stockton, CA. 2009 Blueberry Packing. The music drives me crazy, but the video quality is great.

[Photos of the week](#): Warm weather has advanced both plant and disease development. Mummyberries are sprouting and starting to release spores. This is about two weeks ahead of last year.

[The Weather Cafe](#) by Rufus La Lone

[Upcoming Meetings](#)

[Small Fruit Cold Storage Report](#)

New & Improved Industry Website Resources and Newsletter

Website reorganization: www.berriesNW.com is the new, consolidated and updated web resource for Northwest berry growers. The older domain names of www.nwipm.info, www.nwipm.com, and www.berryinnovation.com will redirect you to this site. These changes have been in the works for a while, and we're very excited to now be able to implement them. Of course, with any change (especially website/ technology changes) come glitches. Please let us know if you come across any problems in this transition.

Small Fruit Update changes: As we've been warning you...we're going to a new format with this newsletter. You'll get a weekly email notice with a link to the posting. This gives you and us more flexibility and, hopefully, convenience.

Feedback: Communication tools are evolving quickly. Our goal is to use these tools to most effectively support your business without getting overly complex. The only way we know if we're going in the right (or wrong) direction is for you to say something...anything! Email: info@peerbolt.com or call 503-289-7287.

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](#)

Meetings

March 3—5th Annual Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission Grower Workshop~ 8:30am-3:30pm.

New location: Wellspring Center, Woodburn. [Click here](#) for the agenda. While there is **no charge**, food and space are limited; so, please let us know ASAP if you're planning to attend. Call (503-289-7287) or email [Beth Unger](#) at the Peerbolt Crop Management office.

March 4th & 5th—OSU Spotted Wing Drosophila Workshops for growers and fieldmen~ No charge

This one could save you, your processor, and/or your customers a lot of problems.

- Attending one of these workshops will give you the latest information on monitoring and controlling this new pest that could potentially take a sizable part of your berry crop.
- Four half-day workshops are scheduled.
- You'll need to register since there's room for only 40 participants in each workshop.
- [Click here](#) for the details and registration information.
- **For additional information:** Diane Kaufman or Wei Yang 503-678-1264 ext. 123 (Diane) or ext. 126 (Wei)
Registration: Jan Egli 503-678-1264 ext. 110 / fax 503-678-5986

March 16—Oregon Blackberry and Raspberry Commission meeting~ 12pm. Langdon Farms Golf Course
Aurora, OR. Contact [Philip Gütt](#) for more information or call 541-758-4043.

Change of Date: March 19—Oregon Blueberry Commission meeting~ 12pm. Doaks Ferry Room, West Salem Roths
IGA, OR. Call 503 364-2944 for more information. *Originally scheduled for March 16.*

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Pest Alerts

- **[Mummyberry blueberries:](#)** Unlike the last couple of seasons, this one is coming out of the gates fast.
 - Many fields are already at or very close to green tip stage (vegetative buds are close to showing the first green color) when infections can take place.
 - If the field or adjacent fields have a history of Mummyberry infections, preventative applications should begin at green tip stage and continue through the end of bloom.
 - **So, what is "green tip stage"?** [Click here](#) for a pictorial guide put together by Michigan State University of the various stages of blueberry growth development.
- **[Winter Moth/ Bruce Span Worm blueberries:](#)** Span worm larvae feeding on blueberry buds in Northern Washington and British Columbia are being reported. No reports so far of hatches in Southern areas. 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.
- **[Pseudomonas \(Bacterial Blight\) blueberries:](#)** Temperatures are now fluctuating from below freezing at night to quite warm during the day. These are ideal conditions for Pseudomonas damage to show up if the plant tissue is infected. 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 all berries:](#)** Vole activity and damage is at very high levels in many berry fields. Management of voles is most effective now in the spring before they start multiplying like...voles. Kind of like weeds—get them before their reproduction cycle kicks in. If they're bad now, they'll be a lot worse later. [Click here](#) for some background and biology information on voles (or meadow mice). [Click here](#) for information on how to construct bait stations.

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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:** (2/17/10) Things are really heating up here in the Fraser Valley as well. Highs of 12-15C (54-59F). We've got to look seriously at some Mummyberry treatment this week in certain areas where temp and soil moisture are staying high. Bluecrop are really pushing. We're getting frost in the mornings with the clear skies; so, this will temper the primary Mummyberry infection potential worries a bit. Some minor bacterial blight. So far, it hasn't been a huge issue from my travels, but frost could change that.
- **Raspberries:** (2/17/10) Lots of baby raspberries with burst buds and primary leaves. Planting of new fields is starting. Lime sulphur going on. Weeds are popping up everywhere.

Whatcom County, Northern Washington

- **Blueberries:** (2/17/10) Mummyberry stalks are sprouting, but no fruiting cups are showing yet. We're probably looking at starting treatments in the first week of March. Lime sulfur going on the baby rasp crop, but watch the wind- we have a gusty North-Easter today and Friday.
- **Raspberries:** (2/17/10) Lime sulfur going on the baby raspberry crops (they break bud sooner than old fields), but watch the wind for drift problems, we've had gusty North-Easters.

Willamette Valley, Oregon and SW Washington

- **Blackberries:** (2/18/10) Better get any training of blacks done soon; buds are out half an inch in most fields and at up to an inch in others. In fields being trained now some buds are breaking off during handling. Conservatively, we are two weeks ahead. Still no signs of cold damage, I know it is too early to tell but it is the main topic of conversation. I have cut enough canes and buds to reduce yields regardless of any cold damage.

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Industry news/resources

Market Newsletter: *The Source* for 2-17-10 [Click here](#) (from Produce News)

Northwest

- **Oregon legislature proposes emergency funding for SWD monitoring, control trials, and information dissemination:** [Click here](#) (2/18, OR Ways & Means Comm. Press Release). This looks like it'll be a great industry and Oregon State University collaborative project.
- **Washington Red Raspberry Commission requests USDA to put hold on grower vote for a national processed raspberry marketing order:** [Click here](#) for the letter requesting the delay from the commission. The issue instigating the action is the difficulty in placing assessments on imported juice, juice concentrate, and puree concentrate.

National

- **USDA withdraws proposal to increase the assessment rate of Highbush blueberries:** [Click here](#) (2/19, U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council)
- **USDA will conduct a referendum Mar. 22 to Apr. 2 for eligible producers of raspberries:** [Click here](#) (2/12, USDA)
- **USDA Good Ag Practices (GAP) & Good Handling Practices (GHP) audit checklist:** (revised 11/9) [Click here](#) for this 30 page .pdf file.
- **Farmers say new H-2A rule adds cost, complexity:** [Click here](#) (2/17, CA Farm Bureau News)
- **FDA wants industry to weigh in on food safety plans:** [Click here](#) (2/9, The Packer)
- **More than 92% of U.S. is drought free:** [Click here](#) (2/19, USA Today)
- **Business update on southern California strawberries:** [Click here](#) (2/15, The Packer)
- **CA Strawberry commission uses new media to reach moms:** [Click here](#) (2/12, The Packer)

International

- (China) **Report shows more pollution in waterways:** [Click here](#) (2/10, New York Times) Huge problem with agricultural effluent pollutants like fertilizers and pesticides.
- (United Kingdom) **Wimbledon faces a crisis as strawberry fields frozen:** [Click here](#) (2/19, Fresh Plaza)
- (Australia) **Heart-shaped strawberry immediate sell out:** [Click here](#) (2/19, Fresh Plaza) This is a little plastic mold that forces a strawberry to grow into a heart shape.
- (Scotland) **Aid package announced for farmers hit by snow misery:** [Click here](#) (2/20, The Scotsman)

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Classifieds

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

Insects

- **Whatcom Extension looking for some help:** Colleen Burrows, Whatcom County IPM Coordinator, has some new(er) lures for Raspberry Crown Borer that she'd like to try on a few farms. She's looking for farms in Whatcom or Skagit Counties that might have RCB and would be willing to have a trap or two on their farm. Whatcom Extension will check the traps and take care of them. Contact Colleen at cburrows@wsu.edu, Washington State University, Whatcom County Extension (360) 676-6736.
- **[Raspberry Crown Borer](#) caneberries:** If you've had borer problems in the past, March is the time to drench for crown borer control in caneberries.
- **[Strawberry Crown Moth](#) southern caneberries:** In Oregon and Southwest Washington, this borer looks to do as much, if not more, damage in caneberries as the Raspberry Crown Borer. The treatment is the same as for RCB- a spring (or fall) insecticide drench.
- **[Clay Colored Weevils](#) southern strawberries:** This early emerging species is usually just considered a pest of raspberries in northern growing areas where it feeds on newly emerging shoots and buds. But in the last couple of years emerged adult Clay Colored Weevils have been recovered from SW Washington southern strawberry fields and blueberry fields. These have been isolated cases with only a couple of fields so far identified.

Diseases

- **Alert: [Mummyberry](#) blueberries:** See alert section above.
- **[Phytophthora Root Rot](#) raspberries:** (*Early reminder*) March is the time to use a fungicide drench in raspberries. Warm, saturated soils are the conditions that favor this organism allowing it to spread quickly.
- **[Purple Blotch](#) blackberries:** Check for cane lesions that are easy to see now. Good time to assess disease level.
- **[Blackberry Rust](#) (Phragmidium Rust) Evergreen blackberries:** (*Early reminder*) Dormant spray of lime/sulfur or elemental sulfur for Blackberry Rust and Redberry Mites is recommended in March to prevent later problems.

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Ongoing Pest Management Information

Insects

- **Alert: [Winter Moth/ Bruce Span Worm](#) blueberries:** See alert section above.

Diseases

- **Alert: [Pseudomonas \(Bacterial Blight\)](#) blueberries:** See alert section above.

Other Pest Species

- **Alert: [Voles](#):** See alert section above.

Crop work

All crops—

- Scout for voles and treat as needed.
- Weed management.

Blueberries—

- 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.
- Scout for sprouting Mummyberries.

- Scout for winter moth/span worm/leafroller larvae feeding in buds.

Blackberries—

- Scout for Purple Blotch lesions in Marion berries to assess field disease levels for later treatments.
- Can apply lime sulfur for Redberry Mites and/or disease management.
- Can drench for crown borer management.

Evergreen Blackberries—

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

Raspberries—

- Can apply lime sulfur for Redberry Mites and/or disease management.
- Can apply Ridomil for Phytophthora root rot management.
- Can drench for crown borer management.

Strawberries—

- Can apply pre-emergent herbicides.
- As plants start to grow, watch for weak growing areas and check roots for weevil larvae, root rot and/or cold damage.

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