

# 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.

May 11, 2010

## Table of Contents

[Regional Reports](#)  
[Spotted Wing Drosophila Update](#)  
[Industry News/ Resources](#)  
[Control Material Information](#)  
[New Pest Management Info](#)  
[Ongoing Pest Management Info](#)  
[CropWork](#)

## Other links

[Videos of the Week](#): Spotted Wing Drosophila monitoring tools. OSU videos of SWD field traps and checking fruit for larvae.  
[The Weather Cafe](#) by Rufus La Lone  
[Upcoming Meetings](#)  
[Small Fruit Cold Storage Report](#)  
[Archived Small Fruit Updates](#)

## 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:

- (5/7/10) I visited a few blueberry fields this week that had variable frost damage. Parts of the Fraser Valley saw temps below freezing (-2 C) this week...we won't know the full impact for some time. A couple of blueberry fields on Sumas Prairie got clobbered by the hail storm on Monday. Samples that I saw had lots of completely shredded blossoms that will not likely set fruit. We've finally got some warm weather to get some pollination happening.
- (5/11/10) After an incredible week of terrible weather things have turned relatively warm and sunny. A good week of weather this week will go a long way for the later stages of the Dukes and a good portion of the Bluecrop. Elliot advancing considerably with the return of heat and sun on the weekend. Noticing **less scorch** symptoms so far in fields where I would normally expect to see it by now.

- **Raspberries:** (5/11/10) Raspberries responded positively to the change in weather. However, with some soil drying and a little higher temp, we're already seeing where the root rot is. There's some early bloom on Malahat and some weaker Meekers. Yellow Rust building and preventative sprays have gone on.

## 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](#)

## Skagit County, Northern Washington

- **Blueberries:** (5/10/10) Warmer weather has kicked the bees into action. However, the storm last Monday knocked many blooms from the Duke and Bluejay. I am not sure how that will affect the crop, but many days of bloom were so nasty, the bees just refused to come out of the hive.  
Bloom is somewhat split, with the first of them coming about 25 (or so) days ahead of last year, and then there appears to be a gap, where the plants really slowed down a bit, giving the impression of a lull in the harvest period. The second flush seems to be only about 10 days or so ahead of last year so that means...I don't know. Could it give us a longer harvest without additional fruit?  
Good news! Shock seems to be much less of an issue, and other pathogens seem to have been less active, or at least giving us less pressure than last year.

## Willamette Valley, Oregon and SW Washington

- **Blueberries:** (5/10/10) Salem area fruit is looking great although the stagger of blossom/fruit set is tremendous. About 1/3 of our varieties have completed bloom. A few farms had hail that is now showing as small brown spots on the berry. Time will tell if the berry outgrows the damage or its appearance worsens. Our drip irrigation and overhead misters were put on line this week to find and repair leaks. Our overhead blocks are next up for testing. I am finding some young fields nearby are being over fruited. Some small plants are so heavy with fruit that emerging leaf buds are rare.
- **Blackberries:** (5/10/10) I saw my first bloom in Marions on Thursday, May 6. Last year first bloom was May 21, which puts us 15 days ahead of last year. Last year we started Marions on July 10, using my somewhat blurry crystal ball that means we should start June 25 this year. Marions are 2-10%; Kotatas might be 2-5% bloom; Silvans around 50% bloom.
- **Raspberries:** (5/11) Bloom will be hitting 10% in Meekers this week. Bees are coming in. Ground has stayed pretty wet overall with this mild spring and some fields of Meeker, Chemainus, Saanich, and Coho all showing root rot symptoms. No symptoms at all in the few fields of Cascade Bounty and Cascade Dawn that I see. Of course, fruit quality isn't quite the same in those. Sure be nice to have the fruit quality and root rot tolerance in the same plant. There's more new fields in the ground with the better prices the last couple of years. Looks like decent crop yield potential at this point.
- **Strawberries:** (5/10/10) We're moving into the third bloom spray on Tillamooks and Totems. More weevil and root rot problems this year but still some good looking fields. Looking at the processed harvest starting the second week of June. In the day neutrals we've got berries coloring and sizing in Albions. There's probably a few ripe ones out there. Had a few greenhouse Hoods and Bentons last week—not much flavor, but they're the first Northwest berries I tasted this year.

[Click here](#) to go back to the top of this newsletter.

## Control Material Information

---

**Alert:** EPA announces intent to implement plan for restricting use of malathion, diazinon and chlorpyrifos in Washington and Oregon.

- [Click here](#) for a letter from the Washington Red Raspberry Commission:  
**From the letter:** "We believe the most serious deficiency in EPA's announced plan involves expansion of no-use buffer zones to every ditch that might eventually drain from an agricultural field into salmon habitat. This would result in a practical prohibition of use in our agricultural areas. The "buffer calculator" developed by EPA is not well understood but initial reports indicate that nearly all our applications will require buffers nearing 500 feet. Most of the berry fields in Western Washington are under 40 acres and are often adjacent to a watercourse. Large buffers threaten our ability to use needed crop protection tools on these fields. Either the buffers need to be reduced or the places they are required limited. We are specifically concerned about losing effective use of Malathion which appears to be one of the more effective tools we have available to control the Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD) which has rapidly emerged as a threat to Pacific Northwest berry crops..."
- [Click here](#) for the EPA's description of their original plan stated in a letter issued on September 10, 2009.

[Click here](#) to go back to the top of this newsletter.

## Spotted Wing Drosophila Update

---

- **Whatcom County strawberry fields wanted for SWD monitoring:** Colleen Burrows, WSU Whatcom County IPM Coordinator has room for one or two more Whatcom County strawberry fields to include in their SWD monitoring program. If you're interested, contact Colleen at (360) 676-6736 or [cburrows@cahnrs.wsu.edu](mailto:cburrows@cahnrs.wsu.edu).

## Websites:

- **Peerbolt Crop Management:** We've begun regularly updating the monitoring information on our SWD website: [Click here](#). The BerriesNW site also has links and information: [Click here](#).
- **Oregon State University:** OSU has a central clearinghouse site (<http://swd.hort.oregonstate.edu/>) with a lot of SWD information and the latest research.
- **Washington State University:** WSU is also posting recommendations and ongoing SWD information. (<http://www.mountvernon.wsu.edu/ENTOMOLOGY/pests/SWD.html>).
- **University of California:** U.C. Berry Extension agent, Mark Bolda has an excellent blog with SWD information ([http://ucanr.org/blogs/strawberries\\_caneberries/](http://ucanr.org/blogs/strawberries_caneberries/)), and UC IPM has information and management guidelines at <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/r71300711.html>.

[Click here](#) to go back to the top of this newsletter.

## Industry News/Resources

---

### Newsletters

- **The Source**, marketing news from The Produce News for 5/10/10: [Click here](#).
- **Michigan State Blueberry Newsletter** for 5/4/10: [Click here](#).
- **Michigan State IPM Fruit Newsletter** for 5/5/10: [Click here](#).
- **New Jersey Blueberry Bulletin** for 5/3/10: [Click here](#).

### Food Safety Developments

- **Northwest FDA Listening Session on Food Safety held on May 5<sup>th</sup>:** [Click here](#) for a report on this session from Diane Kaufmann, OSU Berry Crops Extension Agent as well as information on how to submit your own comments either electronically or by mail.
- **FDA's ability to safeguard food supply faulted in pair of reports:** [Click here](#) (5/7, Dallas Morning News)
- **Lettuce recall doesn't hide progress on food safety, experts say:** [Click here](#) (5/7, Christian Science Monitor)
- **E. coli concerns prompt another romaine recall:** [Click here](#) (5/10, The Packer)

### Northwest

- **'Product of Canada' label disappearing from processed foods:** [Click here](#) (5/10, Toronto Sun)

### National

- **Michigan: Fruit Crop Guesstimate to be held:** [Click here](#) (5/6, Mlive.com) It'd be great if the Northwest would do something like this for berry crops.
- **Wisconsin: Cold weather threatens strawberry crop:** [Click here](#) (5/10, Channel 3000.com)

### International

- **Chilean fruit exports decreased:** [Click here](#) (5/7, freshplaza.com) Overall they were down but blueberries were up.
- **U.K.: Expert warns blueberry growers to be vigilant over light-brown apple moth:** [Click here](#) (5/7, Hort Week)
- **U.K.: Blueberries outsell strawberries:** [Click here](#) (4/28, The Telegraph) "*The quintessentially of English summer fruits has been knocked off its perch by an American interloper...*"
- **U.K.: Technological innovation for harvesting:** [Click here](#) (5/7, Horticulture Week)

[Click here](#) to go back to the top of this newsletter.

## New Pest Management & IPM Information

---

### Insects/Mites

- **Spotted Wing Drosophila** all berries:
  - **Insecticide options for SWD management:** [Click here](#) OSU's compiled information on the present state of knowledge on berry crop and cherry insecticide options.
  - **Mobilizing to combat fly threatening NW fruit crops:** [Click here](#) (5/10, WSU Today)
  - **Extension Spotlight: A challenge to fruit crop pest control:** [Click here](#) (5/9, NR Today (Douglas County, OR))

[Click here](#) to go back to the top of this newsletter.

## Ongoing Pest Management Information

---

### Insects

- [Aphids/Scorch virus](#), **northern blueberries**: The Blueberry Council is, again, providing free Scorch and Shock virus testing to all B.C. blueberry growers. Bloom is the best time to look for symptoms. [Click here](#) for the sample submission.
- **Root Weevils, southern strawberries**: Root weevil pupae and adults are now being recovered as well as larvae in southern strawberry fields. After emergence, it takes about 30 days before an adult (and they're all female) begins laying eggs. So treatments for the adults should take place before that 30 day window is up but after sizable amount have emerged. Monitoring the larvae and pupae development is the best way to know the status of these pests. It's also very time consuming and difficult to quantify. For more information click on the following: [Black Vine](#), [Rough Strawberry](#), and [Strawberry Root Weevils](#).
- [Clay Colored Weevils](#) **northern raspberries**
- [Winter Moth/ Bruce Spanworm](#) **blueberries**
- [Leafroller larvae](#) **blueberries**
- [Redberry Mite](#) **evergreen blackberries**
- [Strawberry Crown Moth](#), **southern strawberries**
- [Blueberry Gall Midge](#), **blueberries**
- [Raspberry Beetle](#), **northern raspberries**
- [Twospotted Spider Mites](#), **northern raspberries**.
- [Yellow Mites](#), **northern raspberries**.
- [Azalea Bark Scale](#), **southern blueberries**

### Diseases

- [Alternaria Fruit Rot](#), **blueberries**: As blueberry bloom starts to finish, it's time to consider whether you need to prevent Alternaria and Anthracnose problems from showing up in the fruit. Alternaria can infect the fruit beginning at the end of bloom and throughout the fruit development stage, up until harvest. Infections remain latent until the fruit ripens. Infected fruits exhibit a shriveling or caving-in of the side of the berry and can become watery in storage.
- [Anthracnose Ripe Rot](#), **blueberries**: If you've had problems with Anthracnose, prevention of a reoccurrence needs to begin at petal fall. Symptoms: First, blighting of shoot tips; then, a few flowers turn brown or black. Leaf spots, when they occur, are large or small and roughly circular. As infected berries ripen, the flower end may soften and pucker. Under warm and rainy conditions, salmon-colored spore masses form on infected berries. After harvest, spore masses form rapidly on infected fruit when in cellophane-covered baskets or in plastic clamshell packs.
- [Yellow Rust](#), **raspberries**
- [Pseudomonas \(Bacterial Blight\)](#) **blueberries**
- [Mummyberry](#) **blueberries**
- [Phytophthora Root Rot](#) **raspberries**
- [Blackberry Rust](#) (Phragmidium Rust) **Evergreen blackberries**
- [Shock virus](#), **blueberries**
- [Scorch virus](#), **British Columbia blueberries**: [Click here](#) for the sampling instructions.
- [Spur Blight](#), **raspberries**
- [Downy Mildew](#), **boysenberries, Kotata blackberries (occasionally other blackberries)**

[Click here](#) to go back to the top of this newsletter.

## Crop work

---

### All crops—

- Can put out monitoring traps for Spotted Wing Drosophila.
- Weed management.
- Fertilizer program.

### Blueberries—

- Scout for Winter Moth/Spanworm and treat as needed.
- Can apply Bacterial Blight (Pseudomonas) management materials.
- Scout for sprouting Mummyberries and treat as needed.
- Scout for leafroller larvae feeding.
- Scout for scale insects.
- Scout for weevil notching.
- Scout for virus symptoms & send in samples for testing as needed.

- Bring in bees by 10-15% bloom.
- Can apply regular fungicides for fruit/blossom rot.
- After petal fall, can treat for alternaria and anthracnose prevention if needed.

#### **Blackberries—**

- Can apply fungicide for prevention of Purple Blotch in Marions.
- Burn back primocanes as needed.
- Can apply phosphite material for Downey Mildew prevention in Boysens and Kotatas.
- Scout for virus symptoms & send in samples for testing as needed.
- Bring in bees by 10% bloom.
- At 10% bloom, can begin applying regular fungicides for fruit/blossom rot.

#### **Raspberries—**

- Bring in bees by 10% bloom.
- At 10% bloom, can begin applying regular fungicides for fruit/blossom rot.
- Scout for Clay Colored Weevil feeding and treat as needed.
- Scout for Yellow Rust and assess treatment options.
- Scout for spider mites and treat as needed.
- Can apply a phosphite material for stronger root growth and root rot prevention.
- Scout for virus symptoms & send in samples for testing as needed.

#### **Strawberries—**

- Watch for weak growing areas and scout for weevil larvae, strawberry crown moth larvae, root rots and/or cold damage.
- Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to confirm.
- At 10% bloom, can begin applying regular fungicides for fruit/blossom rot.
- Can apply a phosphite material for stronger root growth and root rot prevention.
- Scout for weevil adults and notching (South).

[Click here](#) to go back to the top of this newsletter.

## **Archived Small Fruit Updates**

---

*These are Small Fruit Updates from the last month (for older Updates [click here](#))*

[05-04-10](#)

[04-27-10](#)

[04-20-10](#)

[04-13-10](#)