

# 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, 2011

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[Link of the week: FreshFruitPortal.com](#)—An excellent source for info on South American fruit crops.

[Video of the week From Farm Gate to Dinner Plate: Ontario's OnTrace](#) food safety program “enables agriculture and food industries to become more innovative and competitive.”

[The Weather Cafe](#) by Rufus La Lone  
[Small Fruit Cold Storage Report](#)

## Updated Meeting Information

For more comprehensive meeting schedule, [click here](#).

- **Due to anticipated weather issues (snow), the following meeting has been cancelled & will be rescheduled: February 24 — Oregon Strawberry Commission Annual Growers meeting~** North Willamette Research & Extension Center, Aurora, OR. 2009-2010 reports will be presented. Contact [Rachel Denué](#) for more information.
- **March 2 — ORBC Annual Pre-Production Workshop for Raspberry & Blackberry Growers~** Full day workshop at Wellspring, Woodburn, OR. 8.30-3:30, [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 [pcm@peerbolt.com](mailto:pcm@peerbolt.com) for more information.

## Potential cold damage assessment comments

### ...From our local weather guy (Rufus LaLone)

“The weather event over the next few days will provide an opportunity to “see” what impact the sudden very low temperatures may have on Marionberries and any other caneberries.

Today (*Wednesday, 2/23*) would be a good day to clip out a few canes PRE FREEZE; then go back and clip out a few more canes POST FREEZE (say next Mon or Tue). Keep them cool and then dissect buds after several days of acclimation in a warm room.” (**See protocol below-TP**)

### ...More from Dr. Bernadine Strik, OSU Extension Berry Crops Specialist

“I collected canes at the NWREC with same objective. Rufus’ email prompted me to call some growers this morning also. They will be collecting canes this morning and storing them in a garage (not at warm temperature) in a little water. Then on Sunday or Monday next week, they will collect another set of canes. Then bring all canes to room temperature. You can evaluate them to compare any damage to cane or bud tissues. I encourage growers to bring any collected canes (well labeled) to the March 2 meeting (**See the ORBC meeting link above-TP**). Ideally we could assess samples there.”

## ...Assessing cold damage in caneberries

[Click here](#) for photos and suggested assessment techniques from Michele Warmund, Horticulture professor at the University of Missouri and Dr. Bernadine Strik, Horticulture professor and berry extension specialist at Oregon State University. Here are the basics:

### A simple method for assessing cold damage:

- Put cane sections in a Ziploc bag and store at room temperature for 4-5 days.
- Then cut and check for injury symptoms.
- Usually after 4-5 days the dead tissue, whether buds or vascular tissue, will have oxidized & turned brown.

## 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

*Not a lot of change from last week. Cooler weather of last 4-5 days has slowed down the bud movement. Some concern for the upcoming 3-4 days (Thursday/Friday) with the probability of record lows and wind chills in the deep negatives for the Fraser Valley.*

- **Blueberries:** (2/21) Blues not immune from possible injury (from coming record cold) to exposed terminal buds that are opening.
- **Raspberries:** (2/21) First season raspberries could also be most at risk of being burned from the predicted cold as buds on these fields are the most advanced.

### Whatcom County, Northern Washington

- **Blueberries & Raspberries:** (2/21) Winter isn't over, snow is forecast for Tuesday and Wednesday. Low temperatures of 19-20 are possible. Raspberry and blueberry buds are pushing. It will be interesting to check them in a week or two. Growers are spraying chickweed and starting the pre-emergent herbicides in blues. New raspberry field planting has started. This weather stuff should slow that down.

### Disseminating information for:

#### Washington

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

#### Oregon

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

#### British Columbia

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

## What do you think? Grower input needed on growing berries using high tunnels.

*If you've thought about, investigated, are interested in, or (best of all) actually grown berries in tunnels, please help out on this project by participating in a 15 minute online survey.*

- Pennsylvania State & Michigan State berry crop researchers need grower opinions/experiences for a USDA Specialty Crop Research Initiative project.
- **What directions should be taken in high tunnel research and extension efforts on berry crops?** (High tunnels = hoop houses, temporary greenhouses, unheated greenhouses, rain or sun shelters, etc. but **not** temp. controlled permanent greenhouses.)
- [Click here](#) to take the 15 minute survey.
- Questions/comments/ information-- contact: [Kathy Demchak](#), Penn State, Phone: (814) 863-2303.
- Thanks!

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## Blueberry Early Spring Weather Management Information

- [Using your sprinkler system to protect blueberries from freezes](#) (Eric Hansen, Michigan State Small Fruit Specialist)
- [Critical Spring Temperatures for Tree Fruit and Small Fruit Bud Stages](#) (Mark Longstroth, Michigan State)

- [Frost or Freeze: What is the difference.](#) (Mark Longstroth, Michigan State)
- [Assessing Frost or Freeze Damage to Blueberries.](#) (Mark Longstroth, Michigan State)

## Industry News/Resources

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### Newsletters

- [‘The Source’](#) (2/21) Market updates from *The Produce News*

### Washington State University

*The budget cuts, reorganizations, position eliminations just keep on coming for both Oregon State and Washington State Extension and Ag Research. Here’s the latest from WSU.*

- [Federal & state shifts in funding=disastrous results for ag research, extension](#) (Dan Bernardo, CAHNRS Dean)
- [Financial impacts of a funding “rollback” and elimination of project funds](#)-one page fact sheet
- [‘Perfect Storm’ WSU Ag Research & Extension Budget Update](#) (2/16, PDF of a Power Point Presentation)

### National

- [ICE announces more audits of hiring records](#)- The Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency has said it is expanding worksite audits of employers in a big way (2/18, The Packer)
- [USDA appoints members to Blueberry Council](#)- (2/18, The Packer)
- [Dole introduces fruit pairings list](#)- Blueberry and cranberry make the top five combination list. (2/14, The Packer)
- [Strawberry genome-sequence will lead to better fruit for consumers](#) An international team of scientists led by the University of Florida and Virginia Tech is the first to publish the DNA sequence for the strawberry (1/4, IFAS News)
- [Certain foods could reduce risk of Parkinson's? Berry possible](#) (2/18, Medill Reports Chicago)
- [Blueberries soon to bloom in Georgia](#) (2/20, Florida Times-Union)

### International

- [North-American varieties of blueberry cultivated in Brazil](#) (2/17, Fresh Plaza)
- [Mexico’s agriculture industry could lose \\$3.7 billion from cold snap](#) (2/15, Fresh Fruit Portal)

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## Classifieds

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**Berries Wanted:** [Sainte Genevieve Winery](#) in Missouri makes fruit wines from various growers all over the U.S. They are looking for potential suppliers in the Pacific Northwest. Preference would be for mid-size family berry growers. The total amount needed would be around 20,000 pounds. If interested, contact Chris Hoffmeister, 1-573-483-2012, email: [llhoffmeister@hotmail.com](mailto:llhoffmeister@hotmail.com)

**Looking for Internship:** “My name is Shawn Scoresby. I’m a junior studying Agriculture Business at Brigham Young University-Idaho. I’m interested in an internship where I will be able to become better accustomed with raspberry production. If you have a position available to hire an intern, please contact me by phone, 208-709-6637; or by e-mail, [sco05009@byui.edu](mailto:sco05009@byui.edu). Available around May 1st.”

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## Pest Management & IPM Information

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### Vertebrates

- **Voles:** Vole activity is apparent in many blueberry, caneberry, and strawberry 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.
- **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 that needs year round management attention.
  - [Click here](#) for a starling fact sheet.
  - [Click here](#) for a starling nesting fact sheet.
  - [Click here](#) for the Okanagan (B.C.) grape grower starling trapping program. This is a well documented and well run starling management plan.

### Diseases

- [Diagnosing four strawberry root diseases](#) Understanding and identifying the characteristics of these four root diseases will help growers mitigate crop loss (Feb. 2011, Growing Produce)
- **[Pseudomonas \(Bacterial Blight\) blueberries:](#)** Water-soaked lesions can appear at this time of year on canes 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 as the temperatures get warmer. Good coverage is essential with copper.

### Insects/Mites

- **[Winter Moth/ Bruce Span Worm](#) blueberries:** Scouting for winter moth larvae should start as soon as the buds start swelling. We've had reports in previous years of problems beginning this early but it's usually in a couple of weeks. More of an ongoing issue in the northern growing regions but also an occasional, locally severe problem in some Oregon and SW Washington fields.
- **[Scale](#) blueberries:** A dormant oil or Esteem (pyriproxyfen) can be used while blueberries are dormant.

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## Spotted Wing Drosophila Update for 2-23-11

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This Update is a collaborative effort with contributions from OSU, USDA-ARS, WSU, and Peerbolt Crop Management.

- [Click here](#) for information links from PCM.
- [Click here](#) for the OSU SWD website.
- [Click here](#) for the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands SWD website.
- [Click here](#) for the WSU, Mt. Vernon SWD website.

### General SWD Comments

- **Northern Oregon:** (2/21) For the first time since last October, no SWD were found in traps from Feb 1 to Feb 8 in Hillsboro (1 site), Forest Grove (1 site), and OSU's North Willamette Research & Extension Center.
- **British Columbia:** (2/17) The last 10 day period (Jan 31-Feb 10) resulted in fewer SWD than the previous 10 day period, but still a few were caught. Traps are located in Delta-Surrey-Langley and Abbotsford.

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- **March 2 — ORBC Annual Pre-Production Workshop**~ No charge, full day workshop at Wellspring, Woodburn, OR. 8.30-3:30, [Click here](#) for the agenda. RSVP soon by calling Peerbolt Crop Management 503-289-7287, or sending an email [pcm@peerbolt.com](mailto:pcm@peerbolt.com).
- **March 8 — Oregon Blueberry Commission meeting**~ noon. Budget Preparation. Santiam Room, West Salem Roth's IGA in Salem. Contact [Bryan Ostlund](#) for more information, or call 503-364-2944.
- **March 17 — Oregon Strawberry Commission meeting** ~ Noon. Roth's IGA, Salem, OR. Contact [Philip Gutt](#), or call 541-758-4043 for more information.
- **March 22 — Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission meeting** ~ Noon. Langdon Farms Golf Course, Aurora, OR. Contact [Philip Gutt](#), or call 541-758-4043 for more information.
- **April 1 — Ecological Raspberry Production Systems (ECORAZ)** ~ Time TBA. WSU-Mount Vernon Northwestern Washington Research and Extension Center. An educational symposium exploring productivity, soil health, water and nutrient management. Lunch provided. Contact [Colleen Burrows](#) for more information.
- **April 12 — Washington Blueberry Commission meeting** ~ Regular commission meeting to be held in Eastern WA. Location TBA. Contact [Alan Schreiber](#) 509-266-4300 for more information.
- **April 13 — Washington Red Raspberry Commission meeting** ~ Puyallup, WA. Contact [Henry Bierlink](#) or call 360-354-8767 for more information.

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## Crop work

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**All crops:** Scout for voles and treat as needed.

### Blueberries

- Scout for winter moth/span worm and treat as needed.
- Finish pruning ASAP.
- 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

- Don't begin training down Marion berries until after threat of damaging cold weather is passed.
- 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.

### Evergreen Blackberries

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

### Strawberries

- Can apply pre-emergent herbicides. Spartan (Sulfentrazone) needs to go on before the end of February.
- As plants start to grow, watch for weak growing areas and check rots for weevil larvae, root rot and/or cold damage.

## Archived Small Fruit Updates

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(For older Updates [click here.](#))

[02-15-11](#)

[02-02-11](#)

[01-19-11](#)

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