

# Small Fruit Update



**Providing Northwest berry growers with the information they need when they need it.**

*The Small Fruit Update is sent out weekly during the growing season by [Peerbolt Crop Management](#) and is funded entirely by the Northwest berry growers & industry through their commissions & councils.*

April 26, 2011

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- **Videos:**
  - [Munger Farms- Corporate Video](#)
  - Mechanical Harvester using air instead of rods:  
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- [The Weather Cafe](#) by Rufus La Lone
- [Small Fruit Cold Storage Report](#)

## 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 & Raspberries:** (Tuesday 4/26) A lot of spraying and field activity this past weekend as it was the first good weather in a while. Pre-bloom aphicides on blues and fertilizing continuing. Development stage of blues is all over the map with multiple varieties capable of popping all at the same time if this cool weather turns to heat all of a sudden. It's getting tough to let the bee keepers know when we'll need to place hives as late winter conditions continues to hang in. Raspberries look really terrible. Poor growth and colour on the Meekers continue to concern all of us. Now Clay Coloured Weevils are starting to feast on the limited vegetation. It just keeps getting better in the raspberry patch.

### Northern Washington, Skagit County

- **Blueberries, Raspberries, & Strawberries:** (Thursday 4/21) Rain and mixed snow again this a.m. Very cool, 33 degrees, high of 50 today. Bummer. Blues- some starting pre-bloom sprays, not too many bugs out just yet, I've only seen a couple of bumblebees. Still lots of mice activity. Raspberries- just about wrapping up the last of the shoot burning, we have real sporadic shoot emergence this year. Babies are green, but the older fields seem to be sitting this one out, sure are slow. Strawberries- trying to get the Devrinol on, but the timing is a bugger, getting it on just before a rain event.

## 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](#)

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## Willamette Valley, Oregon and SW Washington

- **Blueberries:** (Thursday, 4/21) At least we got drier. Now we need warmer. Tomorrow & Saturday look great—dry-low-mid sixties and then....not so great. Bloom is limping toward 10% in Dukes. Should get there with the next couple days and should get bees flying even. Scattered bloom in some Albion strawberries but not in the Hoods/Totem. Maybe next week.

## Pest Alerts

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### Blueberries - [Mummyberry](#)

- From now through the end of bloom, blueberries are susceptible to Mummyberry infections.
- This early period is critical to managing the disease when the vegetative buds are at/beyond green tip stage, there's long periods of wetness, the temperatures are getting into the 50-57°F / 10-14°C range...and it's difficult to get into the fields to treat.  
[Click here](#) for a Mummyberry fact sheet from MSU.

### Evergreen blackberries - [Blackberry Rust \(Phragmidium Rust\)](#) *This is a critical window in managing this disease.*

- In early-mid April the overwintering spores are germinating whenever there's enough moisture. Lime sulfur should be on.
- Infections won't occur until leaves reach a stage of about ¾'s expansion.
- The first new infection symptoms on the new leaves will be visible by the end of April-beginning of May.
- If lime sulfur was applied and first symptoms are light, a minimal fungicide program should be sufficient (e.g. one Rally (myclobutanil) application).
- Continue scouting through June to be sure another application isn't needed.

### British Columbia Blueberries - [Scorch virus](#) - Vector (aphid) management

- From the B.C. Pest Alert: "Blueberry scorch virus is transmitted by aphids. An effective aphid control program should be used by all growers. **Fields should be treated before bloom with a registered aphicide to control the over-wintering aphids before they reproduce and disperse.**"
- Click on the blue link above for full information from the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture. Check with your berry management specialists, both public and private, for more specific recommendations and selection of appropriate management materials.
- You can also email the B.C. Blueberry Council's research coordinator, [Karina Sakalauskas](#) (or call her at 604-613-2133) for information.

## Industry News/Resources

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### Industry Positions & Internships

- **Field Operations Supervisor, California Giant Berry Farms:** Headquartered in Watsonville, CA, we are currently looking for a field representative for our Aurora, OR facility. Applicants must have experience in blueberry production management. Interested individuals looking for further information should send their resumes to Evan Pence at [epence@calgiant.com](mailto:epence@calgiant.com). Cal Giant is a year-round packer and shipper of quality berries. Visit [www.calgiant.com](http://www.calgiant.com) for company information.
- **Internship, Curry & Company, Inc:** "We are currently recruiting for our summer internship program." [Click here](#) for a full description & information.
- **Food Safety**
- [Purdue University Food Safety site:](#) "A series of 5 education modules, in the form of PowerPoint presentations...developed to be used as a training and teaching tool for the fruit and vegetable industry."
- [Are small farms exempt from Good Agricultural Practices certification?](#) (4/25, MSU Extension News)
- [Recipe for Food Safety](#) (4/24, Time magazine) "The question is, Can the FDA police the world?" China, the FDA, the Food Safety Modernization Act, politics, money...

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### Extension

- **Oregon State:** “Blueberry Economics: The Costs of Establishing and Producing Blueberries in the Willamette Valley” is now available. [Click here](#) for the 26 page pdf file. Thanks to OSU’s Bernadine Strik, Wei Yang, and Jim Julian for producing this valuable document.
- **Online extension publications & books**
  - **Michigan State:** **MSU has launched a new online bookstore.** [Click here](#) for their listings of available fruit publications and factsheets.
  - **Oregon State:** [Click here](#) for their “Berries & Grapes” publications & factsheets.
  - **Washington State:** [Click here](#) for their “Agriculture” listings. They include a websites sections.

### Newsletters/Blogs

- [‘The Source’](#) (4/25) Market updates from The Produce News.
- [New Jersey Blueberry Bulletin](#) (4/18)

### West

- California: [Strawberry season debuts](#) (4/22)

### National

- Midwest: [Planting at a soaked standstill](#) (4/25, Agriculture.com)
- [Naturipe offers Berry Quick Snacks](#) (4/21, The Packer)
- [FDA Redesigns Web Page for Food-Safety Awareness](#) (4/18, FoodProcessing.com)
- [FDA Web Page To Raise Awareness Of Food Safety Modernization Act](#) (4/21, Growing Produce) - Find out more information on implementing the new law, learn what FDA is doing, and offer feedback.
- Florida: [Blueberries Going Strong, But Clouds on the Horizon](#) (4/24, The Ledger)
- North Carolina: [Dedication and determination lead to super blueberries](#) (2/24, technicianonline.com) A profile of Bill Cline and the North Carolina State’s blueberry breeding program.

### International

- [Japan produce trade returning to normal](#) (4/21, The Packer)
- Peru: [Raspberry production promoted in Andean zones](#) (4/20, FreshPlaza.com)
- Chile: [Vital Berry changes hands](#) (4/25, FreshFruitPortal.com)

## **New Pest Management & IPM Information**

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*Three recent postings on UC Davis Berry Extension agent, Mark Bolda, on what’s happening in California berries:*

- [Orange Rust emerging again in blackberry](#) (4/19) *“Of all the rust fungi that we deal with in caneberries on the Central Coast, orange rust is unique in that it grows systemically in the plant, meaning that the most important management tool for growers dealing with an infestation of orange is a shovel. There is no effective fungicide for orange rust. Infected plants should be removed entirely, meaning all canes, leaves and the roots. This is best done before the pathogen spores are ready to be spread by rain and wind in mid-April through May.”*
- [Light Brown Apple Moth on the march again--Watsonville](#) (4/20)
- [Physical Damage on Raspberry cane](#) (4/22) Good photos and information.

## **Ongoing Pest Management & IPM Information**

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- **Prime Time to prevent: [Downey Mildew](#), boysenberries, Kotata blackberries (occasionally other blackberries):** This is a systemic disease that only displays symptoms if environmental conditions are right in the spring. It can cause major losses due to misshapen berries. A distinctive red leaf pattern is also diagnostic of the disease. Phosphite applications in the spring are recommended to prevent outbreaks.
- [March Flies](#), **incidental insect:** This ‘fly’ clogs up our field insect traps and is everywhere this time of year.

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- **Assess amount of damage for later treatment: [Spur Blight](#), raspberries:** As buds break it's the best time to see the 'one-side-of-the-cane-dead-bud' symptoms of this disease before the growth masks them. Actual disease management is right after harvest when machine picker wounds are fresh & the major disease entry point. This is much more prevalent/ serious in machine harvested fields.
- **Assess amount of damage: [Purple Blotch](#) blackberries:** Check for cane lesions that are easy to see as the weather warms but the foliage has not completely covered them.

### Diseases

- [Pseudomonas \(Bacterial Blight\)](#) blueberries recommended management
- **Risk is high: [Mummyberry](#) blueberries.** See [alert](#).
- **Risk is high: Evergreen blackberries. [Blackberry Rust](#) (Phragmidium Rust)** See [alert](#).
- [Phytophthora Root Rot](#) raspberries

### Viruses

- **Prime Time to scout for: [Shock virus](#), southern blueberries.** Symptoms are just becoming visible in many fields.
- **Prime Time to treat for: [Aphids/Scorch virus](#), northern blueberries.** Pre bloom aphid control is strongly recommended in blueberry fields infected with or in close proximity to fields infected with [Scorch virus](#). **This disease is most prevalent in B.C.**

### Insects/Mites

- **Prime Time to scout for: [Winter Moth/Bruce Span Worm](#) blueberries.**
- **Prime Time to scout for: [Clay Colored Weevils](#) northern raspberries.**
- [Raspberry Beetle](#), northern raspberries. This small beetle can cause fruit damage and be a major contaminant in northern raspberry fields.
- [Azalea Bark Scale](#), blueberries. This scale's telltale bright white egg sacs on the lower branches of infested plants are becoming more apparent in some southern blueberry fields.
- [Strawberry Crown Moth](#), southern strawberries. It's now possible to find the larvae in the crowns of strawberry plants in some SW Washington fields.
- **Root Weevils, strawberries.** Larvae of [Black Vine](#), [Rough Strawberry](#), [Strawberry Root Weevils](#) are now being recovered from some strawberry fields.
- [Leafroller larvae](#) blueberries.
- [Blueberry Gall Midge](#), southern blueberries.
- [Lecanium scale](#) blueberries.

## Meeting Information

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

- **April 26 — Oregon Blueberry Commission meeting** ~ Noon. Santiam Room, West Salem Roth's IGA in Salem. Call (503) 364-2944 for more information.
- **April 28 — Oregon Strawberry Commission meeting** ~ 12pm–3pm. Roth's West in Salem 1130 Wallace Rd. Call 541-758-4043 or [email](#) for more information.
- **April 29 — Whatcom County Spotted Wing Drosophila & Brown Marmorated Stink Bug workshop** ~ See SWD section above.
- **May 5 — Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission meeting** ~ 6pm, Langdon Farms. Call 541-758-4043 or [email](#) Philip Gutt for more information.
- **May 17 — Skagit County Spotted Wing Drosophila & Brown Marmorated Stink Bug workshop** ~ North Whatcom, Fire Station 71, 307 19th Street Lynden, WA, 98264. Commercial Growers (9AM to Noon); Home Gardeners (1 to 3PM). [Click here](#) for more information, including how to RSVP.

## Crop work

### All crops

- Scout for voles and treat as needed.
  - *Zinc phosphide baits cannot be used after bud break.*
- Weed management.

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

### **Blueberries**

- Weed management note: [Callisto \(mesotrione\)](#) can only be used before bloom.
  - [Click here](#) for information from OSU on the new herbicide options in blueberries.
  - [Spring herbicide choice for blueberries](#), (MSU)
- Scout for Winter Moth/Spanworm and treat as needed.
- Can apply Bacterial Blight (Pseudomonas) management materials.
  - [Click here](#) for information on 'Copper products, characteristics and uses' (MSU)
- Scout for sprouting Mummyberries and treat as needed.
- Scout for leafroller larvae feeding.
- Plan for pre-bloom aphid control where Scorch virus transmission is an issue.
- Scout for virus symptoms & send in samples for testing as needed.
- Bring in bees around 10-15% bloom.
- Scout for scale insects.
- Scout for weevil notching.

### **Blackberries**

- Scout for Purple Blotch lesions in Marion berries to assess field disease levels for later treatments.
- 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.

### **Evergreen Blackberries**

- Scout for blackberry rust and treat as needed.

### **Raspberries**

- Burn back primocanes as needed.
- (northern areas) Scout for Clay Colored Weevil feeding and treat as needed.
- Scout for Cane Blight and Cane Botrytis symptoms.
- Scout for virus symptoms & send in samples for testing as needed.
- Can apply a phosphite material for stronger root growth and root rot prevention.
- Scout for Yellow Rust and assess treatment options.
- Scout for spider mites and treat as needed.

### **Strawberries**

- As plants start to grow, watch for weak growing areas and check plants for weevil larvae, root rot and/or cold damage.
- Scout for weevil adults and notching (South).
- (Southern strawberries) Can scout for Strawberry Crown Moth larvae.
- Prepare for bloom in the south. At 10% bloom, can apply a fungicide for fruit/blossom rot.
- Can apply a phosphite material for stronger root growth and root rot prevention.
- Can till row centers and/or narrow down the matted rows.
- Can apply slug bait.

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## **Archived Small Fruit Updates**

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

[04-19-11](#)

[04-12-11](#)

[04-06-11](#)