

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.

May 11, 2011

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Featured links:

- **Article of the week:** [Our new invasive pests—Some perspectives](#) (5/5, WRRC Newsletter)
- [The Weather Cafe](#) by Rufus La Lone
- [Small Fruit Cold Storage Report](#)

Notice for Processed Raspberry Growers

You will have the opportunity to vote on forming a National Processed Red Raspberry Council

[USDA sets dates for processed raspberry promotion, research, & information program referendum](#) (5/09, FreshPlaza)

When: Ballots will be going out to growers on June 1st and need to be returned between June 8th and June 24th.

For Information: A recent mailing went out from the Washington Red Raspberry Commission with details and will shortly be going out from the Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission. You can also call either commission office for information.

WRRC: 360-354-8767. **ORBC:** 360-758-4043.

Upcoming Informational Meetings:

- **Wednesday, May 25:** 9 am at the Oak Tree Restaurant in Woodland, WA.
- **Wednesday, May 25:** 2 pm at the North Willamette R & E Center, Aurora, OR.

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: (Monday, 5/9)** Looks like the first real bloom sprays are going on blues this week. However, percentage bloom is quite inconsistent across the Fraser Valley and even from field to field within the same

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](#)

area. Fields are very wet (especially after Saturday's downpour) and spraying is a chore just like last season. The concern now is for the weather to warm and dry up to allow pollination. Bees were working today and that's a good sign even though the weather wasn't terrific.

- **Raspberries: (Monday, 5/9)** Raspberries look a little better today colour wise with warming temps, but the laterals are short and slow. I've seen quite a few fields with Two Spotted Spider Mite populations and eggs that we're going to move on with control measures this week. *Be wary of the mite populations and keep in mind the spraying to come for SWD.* Early mite control may be very important. As well, the wet weather is bringing on Yellow Rust, especially in Meekers. Both of these are really the last thing these struggling plants need right now.

Northern Washington, Whatcom & Skagit Counties

Surprise! More rain. Never, never, never seen it so wet and cold so late. Hard to make a prediction based on past experience, because we have not had a comparable experience in the last 32 years.

- **Raspberries: (Tuesday, 5/10)** (Skagit County) Our Meeker have a mix of short and long laterals, emerged from both primary and secondary buds. Can still see some completely bare loops. I think the harvest season will be long, but the harvest will be light. On the other hand, Chemainus, Saanich and Cascade Bounty look fine. Nearby Meeker fields are highly variable: Some show only moderate damage, similar to ours. However, others appear very heavily damaged, with few laterals emerging.
- **Blueberries, Raspberries: (Friday, 5/6)** Rain. There is nothing going on. Watch for worms in the blueberries. They are on the inside of the flower. I suspect they are hiding from this junk as well. Botrytis festival continues. Raspberries parked. Leaf feed worked like a wonder drug, but the laterals are still short.
- **Blueberries: (Friday, 5/6)** Blueberries do look good right now, potential for real good bloom; hope the bees like cold wet weather.
- **Strawberries: (Friday, 5/6)** Strawberries pushing up fruit spurs finally, bloom still a ways off. Watch for mites.
- **Raspberries: (Friday, 5/6)** Ugly overall, short laterals, blind buds. 1st year fields mostly look nice, except for those tied up early that have more cold damage. Leafroller traps should be in the fields. Other than mice and a few cutworms/armyworms, an amazing shortage of critters so far in all the crops.

Eastern Washington

- **Blueberries: (Friday, 5/6)** We have had near record low temperatures, but it has now warmed up significantly putting us in just cool to slightly below average temperatures. Day time lows in the mid forties, day time highs in the upper sixties to low seventies. Most blueberries in this area are Dukes and we are in at least 50% bloom for that variety if not further along. We have good pollination conditions.

Washington Blueberries

- **From Alan Schreiber, Director of the Washington Blueberry Commission**
 - **2011 Production Forecast (Friday, 5/6)**
 - Whatcom County should be up significantly over the past year due to three reasons, better weather conditions this year than last year, new acreage entering production and young fields entering nearing full production.
 - Skagit County, the second largest source of blueberries on the west side, will be down an estimated 30% due to the freeze on February 28th.
 - Southwestern Washington production will be up slightly, in part on the strength of Lewis County's increased production.
 - Eastern Washington production will be up by 50% or more and will strongly contribute to an overall increase in blueberry production in Washington. This increase is from new acreage entering production and young fields substantially increasing production. While there was some winter damage, the reduction for this reason will be overwhelmed by new production.
 - Assuming normal and desirable weather from here on, Washington blueberry production could be up by 5 to 10 million pounds.

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Willamette Valley, Oregon and SW Washington

- **Blackberries: (Friday, 5/9)** There are some good looking fields out there but then there are ugly ones, quite a range. Yields will be below normal on the black fruit, how much below is yet to be determined. Fruit spurs will be short and less berries but maybe we can make up for it with size. We are at least two weeks behind right now but think we will start harvest about a week late. Last year the first Marion blooms were May 6, so far this year have not seen any. Some Marion growers have already burned canes, for those that have not, it is time.
- **Strawberries: (Friday, 5/6)** Some older fields in SW Washington moved past 10% bloom this week but most strong fields throughout the region will probably see their first open flower this week. Picking looks to start on the older fields around June 15th. The main crop? The 20? Mostly likely—short season with a short crop—along with more overlap than usual with caneberry and blueberry harvest.
- **Blueberries: (Friday, 5/6)** The bright spot for berry growers, as usual the past few years. Dukes are moving past 50%. A lot of bloom came out this past week and we had some decent pollination weather. Some cold damage in fields but overall—looks good. Harvest will probably be starting later than last year with Dukes starting in late June-early July (just an early estimate!). Oregon's overall blueberry yield has the capacity right now to be up significantly over last year due in most part to increased acreage.

Pest Alerts

Blueberries - [Mummyberry](#) [Click here](#) for a Mummyberry fact sheet from MSU.

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.

Evergreen blackberries - [Blackberry Rust](#) (Phragmidium Rust)

This is a critical window in managing this disease. 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.

Raspberries - [Yellow Rust](#)

Yellow rust is now changing spore stages and becoming more visible. It should be evaluated carefully to determine whether or not a fungicide treatment is 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" You can email the B.C. Blueberry Council's research coordinator, [Karina Sakalauskas](#) (or call her at 604-613-2133) for more information.

Northern raspberries – [Twospotted Spider Mites](#)

There are reports of economically treatable levels being reported in raspberry fields.

Spotted Wing Drosophila

This SWD Update is a collaborative effort with contributions from OSU, USDA-ARS, WSU, BC Ministry of Ag, and PCM

Northwest SWD Information Websites

[Peerbolt Crop Management](#)

[Oregon State Univ.](#)

[B.C. Ministry of Ag.](#)

[WSU Westside](#)

[WSU Eastside](#)

Management Material Update

- **New Special Local Needs (24C) label issued on May 3rd for Entrust in Washington** [Click here](#) for the label.

Northwest Monitoring Weekly Update –South to North

The number of fields and crops monitored in each of the following WA and OR counties varies; so, the total trap counts cannot be directly correlated with each other. They should be viewed as indicators only. This pest can be very site specific. Any treatment decisions should be based on monitoring data/observations gathered directly from the field to be treated. [Click here](#) for regularly updated monitoring data from these counties.

- **Jackson & Josephine Counties, Southern OR: Fig:** 10 males, 13 females. **Him Blacks:** 2 males, 12 females.
- **Linn & Lane Counties, OR:** No catches.
- **Polk & Marion Counties, OR:** No catches.

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- Yamhill & Clackamas Counties, OR: No catches.
- Multnomah & Washington Counties, OR: **Salmonberry/border area**: 3 males, 1 female.
- Clark, Cowlitz & Lewis Counties, Southwest WA: **Strawberry**: 1 male, 0 females.

Hood River area, OR: The first capture has occurred in Hood River, according to Dr. Peter Shearer...an adult female from a backyard apple cider vinegar trap.

Eastern WA: (5/5) (WSU Extension) [Click here](#) for the WSU Extension reports for Eastern Washington.

Western British Columbia: (5/4) (Ag Canada) This past week the traps contained very few drosophilids and no SWD.

General Comments

- Identifying early 'hotspots' and breeding sites is of critical importance right now. We'll only get one chance each year to look at this. If you've got any information that can help find these spots, please contact one of the principals involved in the monitoring program in your area.
- Monitoring programs outside of the above reports are reporting more catches in or near urban areas and wild border areas.

Pest Management & IPM Information

Diseases

- **Downey Mildew**, boysenberries, Kotata blackberries (occasionally other blackberries): *Phosphite applications in the spring are recommended to prevent outbreaks.*
- **Pseudomonas (Bacterial Blight)**
- **Purple Blotch** blackberries.
- **Risk is high: Mummyberry** blueberries. See [alert](#).
- **Risk is high: Blackberry Rust (Phragmidium Rust)** Evergreen blackberries. See [alert](#).
- **Phytophthora Root Rot** raspberries.
- **Yellow Rust** raspberries.

Viruses

- **Prime Time to scout for: Shock virus**, blueberries. *Symptoms are visible in many fields.*
- **Prime Time to Scout for: Aphids/Scorch virus**, northern blueberries. See [alert](#).

Insects/Mites

- **Prime Time to scout for: Winter Moth/Bruce Span Worm** blueberries.
- **Prime Time to scout for: Clay Colored Weevils** northern raspberries and blueberries.
- **Raspberry Beetle**, northern raspberries.
- **Azalea Bark Scale**, blueberries.
- **Strawberry Crown Moth**, southern strawberries.
- **Leafroller larvae**, blueberries.
- **Blueberry Gall Midge**, southern blueberries.
- **Lecanium scale** blueberries.

Industry News/Resources

Summer Field days

Oregon State – OSU North Willamette Research Station

15210 NE Miley Road, Aurora, OR 97002. Call 503-678-1264 for more information.

- **June 15 — Strawberry Open House** ~ 1pm.
- **July 6 — Caneberry Open House** ~ 1pm.
- **July 13 — Blueberry Field Day** ~ 1pm.

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Washington State – Mt. Vernon

Call Pat Moore at 253-445-4525 or Tom Walters at 360-848-6124 for information

- **July 20 — Raspberry machine harvesting selection evaluation**--1-3pm at Sakuma Brothers Farm, Mt. Vernon.
- **July 20 — Berry Grower Field Day**~3-5pm at the WSU Mt. Vernon Research Station.
- **July 21 — Raspberry machine harvesting selection evaluation**~11am – 1pm at Randy Honcoop's farm in Lynden.
- **July 21 — Fumigation field day** following the mechanical harvest trial at Randy's ~ Lynden location TBA.

British Columbia

- **July 21 — B.C. Berry Field Day** ~ 2-5pm. Contact [Chaim Kempler](#) for more information or call 604-796-1716.

Classifieds

- **Washington Blueberry Promotion effort is looking for an Airstream trailer.** Darryl Ehlers, a former Washington Blueberry Commission member and long-time Washington blueberry grower, is still searching for a 14 foot or shorter Air Stream trailer that he could modify for the commission's uses for promoting blueberries. Darryl says, "Air Stream lends to nostalgia and has the shape needed to make this fly. If needed it can be gutted, because all that will be in it are shelves, brochures or food samplings to move from show to show." If you have, or know of, a trailer that could be for sale, contact Darryl at 360-988-5184 or email him at lingonberry1@aol.com.

Food Safety

- [FDA Issues First New Rules Under Food Safety Modernization Act](#) (5/04, FDA News Release)
- [MSU Researcher studying Global Food Safety](#) (5/09, ABC Action News)
- [What is the "Future of Food" Without Food Safety?](#) (5/09, Huffington Post)

Newsletters/Blogs

- ['The Source'](#) (5/09) Market updates from The Produce News.
- [New Jersey Blueberry Bulletin](#) (5/02)
- [B.C. Berry Biosecurity Report for May 6](#) *Formerly the B.C. Blueberry IPM report, this expanded version includes SWD monitoring reports from raspberry fields as well as full IPM information on blueberries.*

West

- [More cool, wet weather for Metro Vancouver](#) (5/10, The Vancouver Sun)
- [Summer should bring steady supplies of California berries](#) (5/06, The Packer)

National

- [Georgia produce takes to the skies with Delta Air Lines promotion](#) (5/10, The Produce News)
- [Strong Season expected for Georgia vegetables, peaches, watermelon and berries](#) (5/09, The Packer)
- [ChromaDex Corp. \(CDXC\) Harnesses the Power of Blueberries to Fuel Corporate Growth](#) (5/10, International Business Times)
- [Blackberries enjoy rise in popularity, profitability](#) (5/06, The Packer)

International

- [Oppenheimer Deepens Ocean Spray Blueberry Program](#) (5/10, PerishableNews.com)
- [Economic Upheaval creates questions about berry shipments to Europe](#) (5/07, The Packer)

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Meeting Information

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

May 17 — Skagit County Spotted Wing Drosophila & Brown Marmorated Stink Bug workshop ~ WSU Mount Vernon, NWREC, 16650 State Route, 536 Mount Vernon, WA, 98273. Commercial Growers (9AM to Noon); Home Gardeners (1 to 2:30PM). [Click here](#) for more information, including how to RSVP.

May 17 — Oregon Strawberry Commission meeting ~ 6pm. Roth's West Salem. Regular meeting and Budget hearing. Call 541-758-4043 or [email](#) for more information.

June 7 — Washington Blueberry Commission meeting ~ Commission conference call. Contact [Alan Schreiber](#) 509-266-4300 for more information.

June 15 — North Willamette Research Station Strawberry Open House ~ 1pm. 15210 NE Miley Road, Aurora, OR 97002. Call 503-678-1264 for more information.

June 22-26 — The 10th International Rubus and Ribes Symposium ~ Zlatibor, Serbia. To register and for more information [click here](#) or contact: [Prof. Dr. Mihailo Nikolic](#), Faculty of Agriculture, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia. Phone: (381)63 801 99 23 or contact [Brankica Tanovic](#), Pesticide & Environment Research Inst., Belgrade, Serbia. Phone: (381) 11 31 61 773.

June 27-29 — 4th Biennial Berry Health Benefits Symposium ~ West Lake Village, CA. Conference focuses on berries and their impact on human health and wellness. Cutting edge research presentations from International scientists in the field. Special one day session for berry industry on how to implement the berry health message into marketing and R & D programs. Visit www.berryhealth.org to learn more or contact Cat McKenzie - catmc@peak.org or call 541-456-2264.

July 6 — North Willamette Research Station Caneberry Open House ~ 1pm. 15210 NE Miley Road, Aurora, OR 97002. Call 503-678-1264 for more information.

July 13 — North Willamette Research Station Blueberry Field Day ~ 1pm. 15210 NE Miley Road, Aurora, OR 97002. Call 503-678-1264 for more information.

July 22 & 23 — "Eat Your Berries!- The Oregon Berry Festival" ~ 11am- 6pm. Portland, OR. Ecotrust Building, 721 NW 9th Ave (NW 10th & Johnson). Taste and buy some of the season's best berries and also sample amazing products made with Oregon's berry bounty. [Click here](#) for details.

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.
- 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 weevil notching.
- Can apply fungicides for fruit/blossom rot from 10% bloom through the end of bloom.
- After petal fall, can treat for alternaria and anthracnose prevention if needed.

Blackberries

- Scout for Purple Blotch lesions in Marionberries.
- 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.

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- Bring in bees around 10% bloom.
- Can apply fungicides for fruit/blossom rot from 10% bloom through the end of bloom.

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.
- Bring in bees around 10% bloom.
- Can apply fungicides for fruit/blossom rot from 10% bloom through the end of bloom

Strawberries

- Watch for weak growing areas and check plants for weevil larvae, root rot and/or cold damage.
- Scout for weevil adults and notching.
- (Southern strawberries) Can scout for Strawberry Crown Moth larvae.
- 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.
- Scout for Powdery Mildew and treat as needed.
- Scout for Two Spotted Spider Mites and predatory, beneficial mites.
- Scout for aphids.

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Archived Small Fruit Updates

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

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