

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 31, 2011

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Video of the week:

Featured article: [Killer Bacteria Claims Victims in Germany, Sweden](#) (New York Times, 5/31) Cautionary tale for any food industry...

[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:** (Tuesday, 5/31) Well into bloom on blues now-Reka done, Dukes on last of the bloom this week and Bluecrop past full bloom. Fruit set looks good so far and fruit sizing is commencing. If good pollination has occurred after all these plants have been through, then I am amazed. Bees have been quite active the last week though. We'll wait and see how they size. I've noticed both winged and non-winged aphids on the tender new growth. So some warm weather will probably see these numbers increase. Scorch starting to be seen in the fields that I know it is traditionally in.
- **Raspberries:** (Tuesday, 5/31) Raspberries getting the Diazinon treatment the last few days. Root rot starting to become quite evident. As reported elsewhere I'm also seeing a lack of new shoot development in some fields. Can't quite get a handle on the problem, but it may just be a timing thing as the plants are behind.

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](#)

Northern Washington, Whatcom County

- **Blueberries:** (Saturday, 5/28) Past full bloom on all but the Liberty and Draper. Heavy bloom, little frost damage. Wilting leaves looks like botrytis or Mummyberry, no surprise given the weather. I'm not a salesman, but this is the year to use the higher label rates.
- **Raspberries:** (Saturday, 5/28) It just gets better and better. Not rain, just steady showers now. Lots of rust in the raspberries, most I've ever seen. Early bloom on the tips and arcs, pre-bloom sprays going on. Hard to explain the pattern of bud damage and lack of new shoots in some fields.
- **Strawberries:** (Saturday, 5/28) Full bloom in most fields, doesn't look like a huge crop. And, for all crops, remember those roots have sat in water for months, don't be surprised if more damage shows up as the fruit sizes.

Willamette Valley, Oregon and SW Washington

It's been a pretty uneventful week here as we head into the pre-harvest home stretch. Wet, cool—what else? Some long periods of leaf wetness at a little higher temperature—even more ideal for molds.

- **Blueberries:** (Monday, 5/30) Blues continue on target. A heat event of some magnitude would seem to be the biggest potential threat at this point. Heavy crop.
- **Blueberries:** (Tuesday, 5/31) (organic production) For the most part a repeat of last year, cold and wet. Bloom is just about done, Jersey still at 50%. I am seeing an increase in the shock this year some in a young Duke field and probably 50% more in the Berkeley, which is an older field. There's a small amount of green berry rot. Just found some Azalea Bark Scale and a small amount of aphid. The crop looks heavy if we can get it through the wet. I have been using Regalia in with our regular sprays, how can we tell if it helped? The growth still looks slow to me but probably just needs some heat units. Last year I found a huge population of native bees and bumble bees in the fields, this year I have not seen very many. Anyone notice this? We are on our fourth bloom spray and are thinking of one or two more depending on weather. Weeds are always a problem and we have a full time crew doing nothing but trying to keep them down 6 days a week. I was in CA last week, the crop looked very heavy and the quality was high. The temps have been cool for them and appear to be holding. If this is the case they will be picking into the end of June. Some may be diverting crop into processed at some point.
- **Blueberries:** (Sunday, 5/29) At Salem, the final bloom spray is underway. With so much late bloom, however, a 4th bloom spray may be appropriate. Hopefully, we will get a nice 10-day blast of warmth and sunshine to even things up a bit. Early aphid infestation appears to be waning now, naturally. We hung our first SWD traps last week. Shocked Bluegold, from 4-weeks ago, are already pushing recovery buds while shock symptoms in Liberty continue to increase. Elliott now at 90% bloom. Nice berry sizing seen in Duke and Draper with a little green-berry botrytis evident (but incidence appears less than last year).
- **Caneberries:** (Tuesday 5/31)—(Organic onfarm research trial block—first harvest year)
 - **Blackberry** are just starting bloom and so far they all look very healthy. Looks like a good crop, I thought they might have been frozen earlier (they are in a cold spot on the farm). Heavy new cane growth, it appears they are happy with the organic fertilizer rates so far. We have several different trials going on with rates and different fertilizers. No signs of bugs or disease yet.
 - **Raspberry, Blackcaps and Currants** (Tuesday 5/31) We also have various red and black raspberry, and currant varieties in the trials. So far, they all look healthy and the crops look heavy. No bugs and disease yet. We have applied one spray of Serenade, Actinovate, and Regalia. I am thinking of at least two more depending on the weather.
- **Raspberries:** (Monday, 5/30) Some of the older fields are in a hurry to bloom. A lot came out this week even without any real heat to speak of. Root rot affected fields are showing. It's pretty frustrating trying to grow raspberries down here. The heavy soils and tendency for more heat work against us. Light crop.
- **Blackcaps:** (Monday, 5/30) They're talking about \$3 a pound. You know there's sure not going to be much of a crop. Verticillium, viruses, root rot, bad winter, not many new fields last year—but \$3 a pound! There are certainly new fields being planted this year.
- **Blackberries:** (Monday, 5/30) Marions moving toward 10%. Some Silvans looking like they're 25-30%.
- **Strawberries:** (Monday, 5/30) Huge amount of bloom right now but a lot of fields just don't have good color—they're light & faded. Probably a lack of root development from the cool soils and now a lot of pull from the plants? Light processed crop of unknown quality. Some of the fresh fields look better.

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Pest Alerts

Spotted Wing Drosophila: SWD Information Websites---

[Peerbolt Crop Management](#)

[Oregon State Univ.](#)

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

[WSU Westside](#)

[WSU Eastside](#)

- No major SWD activity has been reported in the Northwest this past week. Next week a full monitoring report will be included in the Small Fruit Update.
- There are no indications that any insecticide applications are needed in any Northwest region for SWD management in berry crops with the exception of Southern Oregon where close monitoring of individual field locations with any fruit coloring is strongly recommended.

Blueberries - [Alternaria Fruit Rot](#)

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.

Blueberries - [Anthracnose Ripe Rot](#)

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.

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.

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

New Pest Management & IPM Information

- [How to identify the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug](#) (5/26, MSU)
- **2011 Updated Pacific Northwest Pest Management Handbooks now available**
 - [Click here](#) to view a list of the changes made to the handbooks.
 - [Click here](#) to order a printed handbook or click one of the books on the site to view the online version.

Pest Management & IPM Information

Diseases

- **Prime Time to scout for:** [Powdery Mildew](#) strawberries.
- **Prime Time to scout for:** [Blackberry Rust](#) (Phragmidium Rust): evergreen blackberries.
- [Pseudomonas \(Bacterial Blight\)](#) blueberries.
- [Purple Blotch](#) blackberries.
- [Mummyberry](#) blueberries. See [alert](#).
- [Phytophthora Root Rot](#) raspberries.
- **Risk is high:** [Yellow Rust](#) raspberries. See [alert](#).

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](#).

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Insects/Mites

- [Clay Colored Weevils](#) northern raspberries and blueberries.
- **Prime Time to scout for:** [Raspberry Beetle](#), northern raspberries.
- **Prime Time to scout for:** [Twospotted Spider Mites](#), raspberries, strawberries.
- **Prime Time to scout for:** [Azalea Bark Scale](#), blueberries.
- **Prime Time to monitor for with pheromone trap:** [Strawberry Crown Moth](#), southern strawberries.
- [Leafroller larvae](#), blueberries.
- [Winter Moth/Bruce Span Worm](#) blueberries.
- **Prime Time to scout for:** [Blueberry Gall Midge](#), blueberries.
- [Lecanium scale](#) blueberries.

Industry News/Resources

Notice for U.S. Processed Raspberry Growers

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

- [USDA To Hold Referendum for Processed Raspberry Program](#) (Growing Produce, 5/9)
- **When:** Ballots will be going out to growers on June 1st and need to be returned between June 8th and June 24th.
- **For Information:** Mailings went out from the Washington Red Raspberry Commission and from the Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission with details.
- You can also call either commission office for information. WRRRC: 360-354-8767. ORBC: 360-758-4043.

Immigration/Labor

- [Supreme Court Upholds Arizona Immigration Law](#) (5/27, Growing Produce) *“The court also upheld the state’s law requiring all employers to utilize E-Verify, a federal electronic employment eligibility verification system that had been voluntary nationwide.”* (5/17, Growing Produce)
- [Georgia gives police added power to seek out illegal immigrants](#) (5/13, New York Times)
- [Georgia immigration bill stresses growers](#) (5/31, CNN)
- [Card Check bill passes California assembly](#)

Newsletters/Blogs

- [B.C. Blueberry IPM Newsletter for May 27](#)
- [New Jersey Blueberry Bulletin](#) (5/23/11)
- Market scope (5/23): [blueberries](#) [blackberries](#) [raspberries](#) [strawberries](#)
The week’s stories & fresh market pricing for the various berries from The Packer.
- [‘The Source’](#) (5/25) *Market updates from The Produce News.*

West

- [Cool, wet spring delays Washington strawberry crop](#) (5/27, The Seattle Times)
- [Litigation erupts over spray problems](#) (5/26, Capital Press)

National

- [U.S. loses nearly one third of honey bees](#) (5/24, Growing Produce)
- [Demand for U.S. blueberries grows](#) (5/25, Western Farm Press)
- [USDA releases annual pesticide report](#) (5/26, The Produce News)
- [Farm subsidies face grave threat](#) (5/26, The Ledger)
- [Weather improves for New Jersey fruit crops](#) (5/26, The Packer)

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Meeting Information

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

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

June 7 — The British Columbia Blueberry Council Annual General Meeting and Spring Field Day ~ 12-3:30pm at the PARC Agassiz Research Centre, 6947 Highway 7, Agassiz. Lunch provide at noon. Pesticide recertification credits available. [Click here](#) for the agenda. Call (604 613 2133) or [email](#) Karina Sakalauskas, BC Blueberry Council Research Coordinator with questions.

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 20 — Raspberry machine harvesting selection evaluation ~ 1-3pm. Sakuma Brothers Farm, Mt. Vernon. Call Pat Moore at 253-445-4525 or Tom Walters at 360-848-6124 for information.

July 20 — Berry Grower Field Day ~ 3-5pm. WSU Mt. Vernon Research Station. Call Pat Moore at 253-445-4525 or Tom Walters at 360-848-6124 for information.

July 21 — Raspberry machine harvesting selection evaluation ~ 11am-1pm. Randy Honcoop's farm in Lynden. Fumigation Field Day to follow. Time TBA. Call Pat Moore at 253-445-4525 or Tom Walters at 360-848-6124 for information.

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

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.

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.

Washington State – Mt. Vernon

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

- **June 14 — WSU Strawberry Field Day** ~ 2-4pm.
- **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.

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Crop work

All crops

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

Blueberries

- Scout for Winter Moth/Spanworm and treat as needed.
- Scout for leafroller larvae feeding.
- Stay on top of aphid management where Scorch virus transmission is an issue.
- Scout for virus symptoms and send in samples for testing as needed.
- 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.
- Scout for scale insects.

Blackberries

- Scout for Purple Blotch and treat as needed.
- Burn back primocanes as needed.
- Can put out pheromone trap to monitor for leafrollers.
- Scout for virus symptoms & send in samples for testing as needed.
- 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 put out pheromone trap to monitor for leafrollers.
- 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) Scout for Strawberry Crown Moth larvae & put out pheromone monitoring traps.
- From 10% bloom on, can apply a fungicide for fruit/blossom rot.
- Can apply a phosphite material for stronger root growth and root rot prevention.
- 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 and treat as needed

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Archived Small Fruit Updates

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

[05-24-11](#)

[05-18-11](#)

[05-11-11](#)