

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.

August 31, 2011

Table of Contents

- [Regional Reports](#)
- [Meeting Information](#)
- [SWD Report](#)
- [Pest Management Info](#)
- [Industry News/ Resources](#)
- [Crop Work](#)

[Featured Article](#) : Analysis of the blueberry industries in Chile, Argentina & Mexico by Todd Mauritz (Curry & Co) interviewed on freshfruitportal.com (8/31)

[Featured Article](#): Food safety in China & the risk to the U.S. (8/31, Food Safety News)...*contaminated vinegar, meat that glows in the dark, exploding watermelons, rice with heavy metals....*

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

Alert

Spotted Wing Drosophila, all berries The risk of fruit damage and economic losses to this new fruit pest continue to increase for any berry crop still harvesting in the Northwest. It is highly recommended to take all appropriate measures to mitigate this risk.

[See the Weekly SWD Update Below for details](#)

Open Positions on the Oregon Berry Commissions

We need industry people who want to improve the marketing and production conditions of Oregon's caneberries & strawberries.

- [The Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission](#) needs two growers & one handler/first purchaser.
- [The Oregon Strawberry Commission](#) needs one grower and one handler/first purchaser.
- The basics
 - Need to have paid assessments on the commodity for the past three years
 - Are an Oregon resident and a US citizen.
 - Applicants don't have to own the farm that produces the commodity and could be an employee who has the interest and time.

[Click here](#) for the application form & contact information.

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](#)

National

[North American Blueberry Council](#)

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

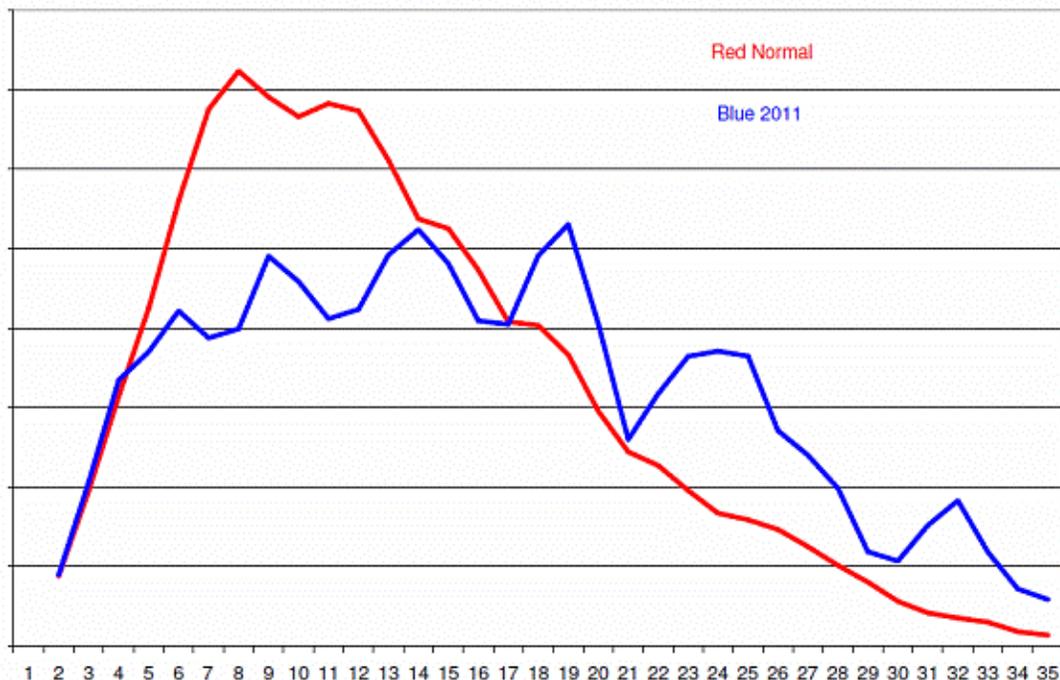
- **Blueberries:** (Tuesday, August 30) Harvested first pick Liberty last week and there was some limited pick on Elliotts in some upper Fraser Valley areas. A larger pick of Elliotts should start by this weekend. Really need the weather to remain as warm as possible. A real cooling off trend has started yesterday for the rest of the week, which is not exactly what we're looking for to keep the ripening process moving along. However, plant growth in both blues and raspberries is really good. New blueberry cane growth this season has been exceptional. Wrapping up tissue testing on blues this week. Not a lot of insect activity but there has been considerable midge damage to growing points the last few weeks.

Willamette Valley, Oregon and SW Washington

- **Blueberries:** (Monday, August 29) At Salem we are in the middle of first hand pick Aurora and Elliott. Plenty of fruit remains in Legacy and Liberty after two picks. Fourth pick Bluecrop will be machine picked sometime in September. Hand pick labor is a little short just now but may improve as mid-season berry varieties finish. (See further comments on SWD in SWD section below)
- **Blackberries:** (Tuesday, August 30) We will start machine harvest of evergreen blackberries tonight, 8 days later than last year. They look good but did not size like I thought, will be more average. Hope the rains hold off for a couple weeks so we can get the bulk of the crop off in dry conditions. Below is a chart of the 2011 Marionberry harvest. I have taken the ten year average daily receipt of pounds and equalized them to the total pounds received in 2011 and then graphed the results to represent normal deliveries which is the red line. The blue line is actual pounds received by day in 2011. Both the red and blue line are two day moving averages to smooth out some of the daily fluctuations you would see just looking at the 2011 data. If there is such a thing as normal we should have peaked in days six through twelve and then dropped off. We never peaked at all, pretty smooth the whole season.

Graph made by Bill Dinger, RainSweet

"Normal" Marionberry Harvest Compared to 2011



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

Industry News/Resources

Newsletters

- [B.C. Blueberry IPM Newsletter](#) (8/27)
- [New Jersey Blueberry Bulletin](#) (8/22)
- [Michigan Blueberry Newsletter](#) (8/30) *This is the very last Michigan Blueberry Newsletter. They've done a great job & it'll be missed.*
- [Michigan State Fruit News](#) (8/31)
- Market scope: [blueberries](#) [blackberries](#) [raspberries](#) [strawberries](#)
Recent stories & fresh market pricing for the various berries from The Packer.
- ['The Source'](#) (8/29) *Market updates from The Produce News.*

Food Safety

- [Don't like bothering with food safety rules? Sue the FDA!](#) (opinion) (8/30, Food Safety News)

North America

- [Funding concerns dominate farm bill session](#) (8/30, The Packer)
- (Nova Scotia) [Sporadic crops for \(lowbush\) blueberry growers](#) (8/29, Truro Daily)
- [Dr Allan Brown leads team to sequence the blueberry genome](#) (8/10, N.C. State)

International

- (Argentina) [The blueberry producers seeks ways to survive](#) (8/31, FreshPlaza)
- (Argentina) [Blueberry route takes flight in September](#) (8/30, FreshPlaza)
- (Chile/China) [New markets for Chilean blueberries](#) (8/23, FreshPlaza)

Spotted Wing Drosophila Update for 8-31-11

This Update is a collective effort. It is composed by Peerbolt Crop Management with contributions from OSU, USDA-ARS, WSU, B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and various northwest berry industry people.

SWD Information Websites

[Peerbolt Crop Management](#) [Oregon State Univ.](#) [B.C. Ministry of Ag.](#) [WSU Westside](#) [WSU Eastside](#)

SWD Management Materials Update

- [Suspected tolerance to Pyganic \(pyrethrin\) found in spotted wing Drosophila](#) (8/23, UC strawberries and caneberries blog)

Regional Comments

These comments 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 in regard to SWD.

British Columbia, Fraser Valley

- **From Mark Sweeney, BC Ministry of Ag Berry Specialist:** (Monday, August 22) "Given the late, weird season and the much lower than expected SWD trap counts, I'm worried that some blueberry growers may be getting complacent and letting down their guard just when numbers start to ramp up. We have seen another increase this week and, with Himalayan blackberries fruiting everywhere, can expect an increase in pressure as we get into the second pick Bluecrop and as Elliott ripens.

I've spoken with some growers who look at the weekly trap counts and, if they see zeros in a particular region, think they are OK. They do not realize that the counts are from a couple of samples of fields, which may not be indicative of theirs.

Tracy Hueppelsheuser's (BC Ministry of Ag Entomologist) work continues to show much higher trap counts in wild borders adjacent to fields compared to within fields.

Light fruit infestations are being detected in unsprayed fields, but nothing like last year."

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

Eastern Washington

- **Blueberries:** (Monday, 8/22) No SWD to speak of.

Willamette Valley, Oregon and SW Washington

- **Blueberries:** (Monday, August 29) Light SWD infestation (larvae in the berries) showed up in blocks of Bluecrop, Rubel, and Bluejay, and the timing between our insecticide applications was shortened. SWD traps with multiple baits were not effective at predicting SWD infestation; we caught our first flies on the same week that larvae were discovered. Our larvae infestation was too light to be detected in the salt dunk flotation at the dock. The problem was discovered by hyper diligent employees on the sorting belt. It appears that SWD is getting started in overhead irrigated blocks protected by helicopter insecticide applications. Is the helicopter coverage thorough enough and/or are we washing off too much of our residual control with the overhead irrigation? Moderate to heavy SWD larval infested fruit from outside growers has been caught with the salt dunk flotation method at the dock.
- **From Tom Peerbolt, Senior Consultant, Peerbolt Crop Management & Coordinator of the public scouting program** (Wednesday, 8/31)
 - The past week saw another increase in SWD trap counts in the region as well as more incidences of larval infestations on berry and stone fruit crops.
 - There is an increasing divergence in trap counts between fields still being treated with regular insecticides and those that have suspended insecticide applications and/or have not received any. Untreated areas are rising to much higher levels.
 - Late season blackberries, late season blueberries, and primocane raspberries are all seeing very significant pest pressure.
 - As the season develops, it seems more evident that we need a better attractant material than the apple cider vinegar we're now using.

SWD in the news

- [New fruit pest has growers and exporters on edge](#) (8/25, Yakima Herald)
- [It's the season of annoying little flies](#) (8/24, Chinook Observer)

Regional Monitoring (South to North)

Oregon Public Scouting Program *This scouting program & reporting system are being funded by a USDA SCRI grant, A Northwest Center for Small Fruit Research grant; the Washington Red Raspberry Commission & the Washington Blueberry Commission.*

[Click here](#) to access SWD trap counts by county quadrant and specific crop for Western Oregon and Southwest Washington sites being covered by this public scouting program.

Western Washington--WSU Public Scouting Program

This scouting program & reporting system are being coordinated by Whatcom County Extension & funded by the Washington Red Raspberry Commission, the Washington Blueberry Commission & the Washington State Commission for Pesticide Registrations.

[Click here](#) for the Home site with links to all the counties and site use information.

- [Click here](#) for the demonstration video on how to use this resource.
- Here are individual county links (south to north): [Clark County](#), [Cowlitz County](#), [Lewis County](#), [Pierce County](#), [King County](#), [Snohomish County](#), [Skaqit County](#), [Whatcom County](#).

Eastern Washington--WSU Reporting Site

[Click here](#) for the WSU Eastern Washington SWD reporting site.

Southwestern British Columbia

- [Click here](#) for the 8/29/11 SWD Monitoring Report for Southwestern BC from the BC Ministry of Ag.

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

- [Click here](#) for the B.C. Blueberry IPM Report of 8/27 with trap counts reported.
From this report: “SWD flies continue to be caught in blueberry fields throughout the Fraser Valley. Low levels of fruit infestation have been reported. SWD is a serious harvest contaminant. Mid and late season blueberry varieties remain susceptible to damage. All blueberry growers with ripe or ripening fruit should apply insecticides for SWD at 10 day intervals to protect the fruit from infestation.”

Guidelines for checking the fruit for SWD larvae in the field

These suggestions are based on techniques that various public researchers and industry personnel have been developing over the past year and a half. If any of you have ideas for improvements to these protocols, please pass them along. We're all in this together.

- Depending on size of fruit (strawberries take longer than caneberries or blueberries), the larvae will emerge from the fruit into the salt solution in a short period of time.
- The smaller the larvae and the lighter the infestation, the more difficult it is to see the larvae.
- Excellent lighting when looking for the larvae is critical to being able to see the smaller ones.

Present suggested methods:

For scouts/field checking ([We have created a video of this larvae-checking method.](#)):

1. Collect a sample of fruit to be tested (Strawberries: 25-30 per sample, Caneberries/blueberries: 75 per sample)
2. Put fruit in a gallon size sealable plastic bag.
3. Pour in enough of the salt water solution to allow the fruit to float (solution is: 1 cup of salt per gallon of water).
4. Mark bag with field code/date.
5. For a quick check in the field after a designated period of time (at least 15 minutes) holding the baggie up to light. This helps to see the larvae in the solution
6. For a more thorough examination, after a designated period of time (at least 15 minutes), pour the fruit and salt solution out into a shallow tray and use a piece of wire mesh screen to hold the fruit down making it easier to separate the larvae from the fruit.

For processors or fruit handling stations:

1. Collect a two pound sample of fruit to be tested.
2. Put the sample into a shallow tray and cover with the salt water solution (1 cup of salt per gallon of water).
3. After a designated period of time (at least 15 minutes) use a piece of wire mesh screen to hold the fruit down to make it easier to separate the larvae from the fruit.

SWD Management Material Resources

Oregon & Washington

- **Blueberries:** [SWD pesticide options & information](#)
- **Raspberries & blackberries:** [SWD pesticide options & information](#)
- **Strawberries:** [SWD pesticide options & information](#)

British Columbia (6/28/11): [SWD Management in BC Berry Crops](#) (with insecticide options listed)

Pest Management Information

- [Take advantage of fall weed management in blueberries](#) (8/29/11, MSU Extension News) *Great primer on fall herbicide options for blueberries.*

Other Ongoing Pest Management Information

[Birds](#), blueberries.

Diseases

- **Blueberry fungal diseases:** [Anthracnose Ripe Rot](#), [Alternaria Fruit Rot](#), [Botrytis Fruit Mold](#), [Mummyberry](#).
- **Blueberry virus diseases:** [Scorch virus](#), British Columbia blueberries.

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

- Raspberry and blackberry fungal diseases: [Blackberry Rust](#) (Phragmidium Rust) evergreen blackberries, [Yellow Rust](#), raspberries, [Phytophthora Root Rot](#) raspberries. [Cane Blight](#), raspberries.
- Raspberry and blackberry virus diseases: Raspberry Bushy Dwarf virus, [Raspberries](#), [Marionberries](#).

Insects/Mites

- **Blueberries, Strawberries, Caneberries – Root Weevils** For more information on our major pest weevil species, click on the following: [Black Vine](#), [Rough Strawberry](#), and [Strawberry Root Weevils](#).
- [Aphids](#), northern raspberries
- [Redberry Mites](#), late ripening blackberries.
- [Two-spotted Spider Mites](#) raspberries.
- **Orange tortrix Leafrollers** in [Blueberries](#), [Raspberries](#), [Blackberries](#).
- [Leafroller larvae](#) blueberries, caneberries.
- [Blueberry Gall Midge](#) blueberries.

Event Calendar

For more comprehensive event calendar, [click here](#).

- **September 15 — Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission meeting** ~ 6pm, Langdon Farms. Call 541-758-4043 or [email](#) Philip Gutt for more information.
- **September 20 — Oregon Blueberry Commission meeting** ~ 12pm. Santiam Room, West Salem Roth's IGA Salem, Oregon. Call (503) 364-2944 for more information or [email](#) Brian Ostlund.
- **September 21 — Washington Red Raspberry Commission meeting** ~ Mt. Vernon, WA. Contact [Henry Bierlink](#) or call 360-354-8767 for more information.
- **September 22 — Oregon Strawberry Commission meeting** ~ 6pm. West Salem Roth's IGA Salem, Oregon. Call (541) 758-4043 for more information or [email](#) Philip Gutt.
- **October 4-7—NABC & USHBC Fall meetings** ~ Caesar's Atlantic City, Atlantic City, New Jersey. [Click here](#) for the informational flyer and tentative schedule.
- **October 11 — ISHS International Symposium on High Tunnel Horticultural Crop Production** ~ Ramada Inn and Conference Center, State College, PA. [Click here](#) for agenda.

Leaf/tissue analysis & Soil testing

Post harvest is the best time to do most soil and leaf testing for nutrient management planning.

- **Blueberries:** Leaf/tissue testing and pH monitoring are most critical. Complete soil tests don't correlate well with plant needs as leaf/tissue tests. [Click here](#) to view OSU's Blueberry Nutrient (and testing) Guidelines.
- **Blackberries and Raspberries:** While annual soil testing has been the industry norm, Oregon State's updated nutritional guide recommends annual leaf/tissue testing, with soil tests done just every few years. [Click here](#) to view OSU's Caneberry Nutrient (and testing) Guidelines.

Crop work

All crops—

- Pay attention to new plantings of all berries for weeds, water, insects, diseases, and nutrient deficiencies.
- Can put out monitoring traps for Spotted Wing Drosophila.
- If ripe fruit is in the field, can monitor for SWD larvae using test protocols listed above in SWD Update.
- Weed management.
- Post-harvest—soil and leaf test for evaluation of nutrients.
- Post harvest—can treat for SWD management if field is adjacent to vulnerable fruit crop.

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

Blueberries—Harvest ongoing in all regions

- Scout for fruit disease symptoms and/or disorders.
- Scout for leafroller larvae.
- Scout for aphids and treat as needed, particularly in northern growing areas where aphids vector Scorch virus.
- Scout for weevils and weevil notching.
- Scout for virus symptoms and send in samples for testing as needed.
- Maintain bird damage management.
- Scout for Mummyberry.
- Can apply SWD management insecticides.

Blackberries—Late variety harvest ongoing in Oregon and SW Washington

- Scout for virus symptoms and send in samples for testing as needed.
- Can apply fungicides for fruit/blossom rot in late season crops.
- Can apply clean up insecticide just before harvest for crop contaminant management in late season crops.
- Scout for Phragmidium Rust in evergreen blackberries.
- Scout for Cane and Leaf Rust.
- Scout for leafroller larvae and treat as needed to prevent fruit contaminant problems.
- Can apply SWD management insecticides.

Raspberries—Processed harvest is finished

- Scout for Yellow Rust and assess treatment options.
- Scout for spider mites and treat as needed.
- Scout for virus symptoms and send in samples for testing as needed.

Strawberries —Processed harvest is finished in all regions.

- Scout for weevil adults and notching.
- Scout for Two-Spotted Spider Mites and predatory, beneficial mites.
- Scout for fruit formation issues like cat-facing.
- Scout for fruit quality issues such as mold.
- Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to confirm.
- **Post-harvest**
 - Mow & renovate 2-4 weeks after harvest unless pest pressures require mowing & treating sooner.
 - Take soil tests.
 - Fertilize as needed.

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

Archived Small Fruit Updates

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

[08-23-11](#)

[08-17-11](#)

[08-09-11](#)