

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.

September 13, 2011

Table of Contents

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

[Featured Article:](#) Blueberry supply tight, says USHBC exec (9/13, FreshFruitPortal.com)

La Nina Returns:

- [Article & links](#) (USA Today)
- [...to disrupt global weather pattern](#) (Video report on YouTube)
- [Information page on La Nina](#) (NOAA)

[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](#)

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:** (Friday, September 12) (From Mark Sweeney, BC Ministry of Ag Berry Specialist) A couple of weeks ago we were concerned about getting Elliott to finish this year, but weather the last couple of weeks has definitely been to order. Good heat units has advanced maturity and great quality fruit is being harvested. Some concern, though, with shrivel with days over 30 C (~86 F) the last few days. Showers and cooler conditions are expected later this week. Regarding the late ripening variety, Aurora, we have limited acreage up here. At the research plots, it looks like it's ripening at the same time as Elliot this year.

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](#)

Northern Washington, Whatcom County

- **Blueberries:** (Friday, Sept. 9) Blueberries still plugging along, quality is starting to suffer. Seems like we are three weeks later than normal on everything up here.

Northern Washington, Skagit County

- **Blueberries:** (Saturday, Sept. 10) We'll pick until we go out of grade on size or run out of fruit here in Skagit. We're starting second round on Liberty, good quality and decent size. Elliott first round is done with the typical soft & over-ripe fruit that comes with getting the rotation started. We put down some of the Mylar reflective film on the row middles of the Elliotts and have seen a slight increase in maturity on the fruit low on the bush. The reflected light appears to even up the ripening, not as noticeable as the apple guys see but worth the effort and cost when you're three weeks behind normal as we are. The recent warm, dry weather has been golden for us and we hope it lasts. We have a late flush of growth in some of the blues which is disconcerting this late in the year. Lots of morning fog soaking the fruit, unusual for us, and we are starting field pack late most days.

Willamette Valley, Oregon and SW Washington

- **Blueberries:** (Friday, Sept 9)) I was in a field yesterday that was making a final machine harvest run through a Bluecrop field and getting some decent fruit off it. Isn't this about a month too late to be seeing that? Overall we're behind but not anywhere near that much. In the Willamette Valley and SW Washington though we can get some big differences on harvest timings within the same cultivar. I wonder if that variation is more extreme this year—seems like it.

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

Industry News/Resources

Newsletters

- [B.C. Blueberry IPM Newsletter](#) (9/11)
- [Michigan State Fruit News](#) (9/13)
- [USHBC Bluespaper for September](#)
- Market scope: [blueberries](#) [blackberries](#) [raspberries](#) [strawberries](#)
Recent stories & fresh market pricing for the various berries from The Packer.
- ['The Source'](#) (9/6) *Market updates from The Produce News.*

Food Safety

- [FDA starts traceability projects for food safety law](#) (9/8, The Packer)
- [Importers to bear more food safety responsibility](#) (9/1, The Packer)

Labor/Immigration

- [U.S. Labor Department proposes updates to child labor regulations](#) (9/2, FGN)

North America

- [Flooding from Irene could hurt NJ's big blueberry crops next year by killing roots now](#) (8/30, The Republic)
- [Maine farmers hope wild blueberry crop will command higher prices](#) (9/6, FreshPlaza)
- (Maine) [Farmers report mixed \(wild\) blueberry season](#) (9/6, MaineBiz)
- (Alberta) [Raising the bar for strawberry production](#) (9/1, Producer.com)
- (North Carolina) [Raspberries thrive in warm upstate environment](#) (9/2, GoUpstate.com)
- (Michigan) [Frost & freezing temps possible later this week](#) (9/12, MSU Extension News)

International

- [USDA projects produce exports to set record](#) (9/13, The Packer)
- (Argentina) [Demand for large packs presents challenges for blueberry growers, shippers](#) (9/9, The Packer)
- (Argentina) [Expecting a record blueberry production](#) (9/7, FreshPlaza)
- (Argentina) [Dole expects first overseas blueberries soon](#) (9/8, FreshFruitPortal.com)
- (Argentina) [Argentina changing blueberry varieties, says committee](#) (9/6, FreshFruitPortal)

- (Peru) [Strong demand means \(opportunity for\) blueberry exports to U.S.](#) (9/9, FreshPlaza)
- (U.K.) [Berries help sales growth to outstrip other fruit](#) (9/12, ISN) “Berries have for the first time toppled Apples and Bananas from the top fruit spot in sales value and have achieved 18.4 percent market share of the £4,160 million UK fruit market.”

Spotted Wing Drosophila Update for 9-13-11

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 Research

- [The efficacy of Sake as a trap attractant for SWD](#) (8/31, Mark Bolda, UC Extension)

SWD in the news

- [Ontario spotted wing drosophila update](#) (9/6, Fruit and Vegetable Magazine)
- (Michigan) [SWD catches increase](#) (9/2, MSU Extension News)
- (North Carolina) [Vinegar fly poses danger to fruit crops](#) (9/9, ENC News)

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

- **Blueberries:** (Friday, September 12) (From Mark Sweeney, BC Ministry of Ag Berry Specialist) SWD numbers are heating up like the weather. I just had a report from a grower seeing some minor larval infestation where no flies have been caught in apple cider vinegar traps – I agree with the comment regarding the need for a better bait.

Northern Washington, Whatcom County

- **Blueberries:** (Friday, Sept. 9) My apple cider vinegar traps worked better for me than they did last year. Placement is critical and may have been better this year. However, I only caught about 6 males all season. Also saw shorter residual as the season went on with Mustang Max and Malathion. Maybe we need a decreasing spray interval, like 10/9/8/7 days as we go through harvest.

Northern Washington, Skagit County

- **Blueberries:** (Saturday, Sept. 10) SWD pressure seems to be down quite a bit from last season; both trap counts and what we can find in the field are negligible. Mustang Max has been the spray of choice on conventional and I have been pleased with rotation of Spinosad (Entrust) and Oxidate on the organics. Few males in the traps this year.

Willamette Valley, Oregon and SW Washington

- **Blueberries/blackberries/strawberries:** (Friday, Sept 9) Late season blacks are being 'hounded' by SWD. If they aren't sprayed every 5-7 days, there's a big chance of infestation. Blues and day neutral strawberries are also seeing pressure with some larval infestations being found. Malathion is not holding up for seven days. Only Mustang Max is giving us any real residual activity under this type of pressure. Earlier in the year is a different story. Maybe the Malathion knocks them out enough that, with a lot fewer adults around, it takes that much longer to build back up to a noticeable level. That might be something that still applies further north. The other SWD issue is that there seems a growing consensus that the apple cider vinegar bait isn't cutting it. We need a stronger attractant.

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

Regional Monitoring (South to North)

Oregon Public Scouting Program *This scouting program & reporting system is 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.
- Use the above link and go to Northwest quadrant of Linn County chart for the highest numbers recorded this past week. (Examples: 4 Wild habitat traps had 2,204 total, 2 blackberry traps had 638 total flies, 2 plum traps had 154 total flies)

Western Washington--WSU Public Scouting Program

This scouting program & reporting system is 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](#), [Skagit 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 9/12/11 SWD Monitoring Report for Southwestern BC from the BC Ministry of Ag.
- From this report: *“Fly numbers have increased exponentially. All regions being monitored have flies. Fruit is susceptible to damage from SWD when it ripens. Larval infestation has been reported. Control of SWD flies is critical if ripening commercial fruit is present.”*
- [Click here](#) for the B.C. Blueberry IPM Report of 9/11/11 with trap counts reported.
From this report: *“SWD have increased significantly over the past week. Late season blueberry varieties are highly susceptible to damage. Low levels of fruit infestation have been reported. All blueberry growers with ripe or ripening fruit should continue to apply insecticides for SWD at 10 day intervals to protect 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 salt per gallon 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.

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

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

- [Choosing fall weed management options for strawberries](#) (9/9, MSU)

Event Calendar

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

- **September 15 — Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission meeting** ~ 6pm, Langdon Farms. See [Agenda](#). 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.

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

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.

Blueberries—Harvest ongoing in late ripening cultivars

- Scout for Spotted Wing Drosophila & treat as needed.

- Scout for fruit disease problems (e.g. Mummyberry, Botrytis, Alternaria, Anthracnose).
- Scout for fall webworm and remove from field.
- Prune out canker-killed branches and remove them from the field.
- Scout for weevils and weevil notching.

Caneberries that are finished with harvest:

- Can cane out old floricanes now and tie up primocanes
- If cane disease isn't a problem, you can wait to do cane work on raspberries until October or later for better plant health, improved cold hardiness and less overwintering habitat for leafrollers.
- Can subsoil and till in raspberries after harvest. The soil fractures much better when it is dry so it's best to do this now before the fall rains start.
- For fields coming out this year, can basally spray with Roundup if perennial weeds are present.

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 finished in all regions

- Can apply post harvest insecticide just after harvest SWD management.
- 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 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](#).)

[08-31-11](#) [08-23-11](#) [08-17-11](#)