

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.

October 7, 2011

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Featured Article:

- [Oregon to be nation's first blueberry exporter to Korea](#)
(10/6, Portland Business Journal)

[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, October 4) Off and on rainy, cool weather the last week has put a crimp in the Elliot picking. Most fields got two picks and into a bit of the third. Considerable fruit left but it'll be tough to ripen. Splits and shriveled berries are common. We've got some good cane growth on most varieties and good bud set going. There seems to be considerable new blueberry planting underway replacing previous raspberry fields and making some varietal changes. I think most of us are glad to see the fall. It's been a challenging, unpredictable year (as usual!).

Northern Washington, Whatcom County

- **Blueberries/Raspberries/Strawberries:** (Monday, October 3) Liming and fumigation still pushing on. Hoping to pick Bluecrop one last time. Pulling weeds and spraying Gramoxone on hills. Raspberries-starting pruning and tying. Strawberries-subsoiling after treating for cyclamen, weevils, and clover.

Northern Washington, Skagit County

Get to revise our 2012 budgets thanks to the new minimum wage, highest in the country they say....

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](#)

- **Blueberries:** (Monday, October 3) Picking round #3 in the Elliots where we are seeing some stem tear-out in the organic fruit.
- **Blackberries:** (Monday, October 3) Chesters under the row covers continue to pump out the fruit while the open blocks are about done.
- **Strawberries:** (Monday, October 3) (Organic production) Albions were hit with some Lygus bugs a week ago. The Mycotrol product seems to have gotten most of them but it takes a week or 10 days to see their numbers drop following application.
- **Strawberries:** (Monday, October 3) (WSU Mt. Vernon Research Station) Day neutral strawberries inside tunnels still going nicely. Lots of fruit rot showing in the plantings outside of the tunnels. San Andreas looks very good, similar to Albion, but fewer runners to mess around with. We are having much better luck with plug plants than with bare roots; the productivity outweighs the higher cost. Plugs are a nightmare to ship from the southeast, though. Wonder if anyone here in the PNW wants to produce some strawberry plug plants?

Willamette Valley, Oregon and SW Washington

- **Blueberries:** (Sunday, October 2) (Organic production) Finishing up a new planting, compost and sawdust applications. Getting ready to install a trellis on some young legacy plants. Not much else going on. Kind of glad to see fall.
- **Blueberries:** (Monday, October 3) At Salem, all blueberry blocks without a continued insecticide program are infested with SWD. Firm fleshed varieties did not seem to be infested last year (like late ripening Duke and Draper) were infested this year. Late fruit coming into the cannery with 10 to 14 day interval spray programs did not hold against SWD. The salt dunk flotation did work well for discovering moderate SWD infestations but a more robust sampling method is needed. Recent rains and heavy dews have caused fruit splitting in Legacy, Aurora and Elliott. One or two modest hand picks of Aurora remain if we get favorable weather. Most varieties are budding nicely on some very good looking wood for next year. This was our first season using falcons for bird abatement and we were quite pleased with the near-perfect results this achieved.
- **Blackberries:** (Monday, October 3) We're hoping to get the last of the evergreens picked this week, need a break in the weather, not sure we are going to get it.

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Event Calendar

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

- **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.
- **October 26 — Washington Blueberry Commission meeting** ~ Regular commission meeting in Lynden. Contact [Alan Schreiber](#) 509-266-4300 for more information.
- **October 26 — Washington Red Raspberry Commission meeting** ~ Lynden, WA. Contact [Henry Bierlink](#) or call 360-354-8767 for more information.
- **October 27 — Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission meeting** ~ Noon, Langdon Farms. Call 541-758-4043 or [email](#) Philip Gutt for more information.

OSU Blueberry Enterprise Budgets for the Willamette Valley

- [Click here](#) for the economic analysis for conventionally grown blueberries.
- [Click here](#) for the economic analysis for organically grown blueberries.

Chemical Pest Management Material Update

- **Fungicides, Blueberries:** BASF has announced that it is removing blueberries from the labels of Pristine and Cabrio fungicides. There will be an 18 month grace period for distribution of existing stocks.
- **Miticides, Raspberries:** Zeal is now labeled for use in raspberries. [Click here](#) for the supplemental label.

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Industry News/Resources

Newsletters

- [B.C. Blueberry IPM Newsletter](#) (10/3)
- [New Jersey Blueberry Bulletin for 10/3](#)
- [Michigan State Fruit News](#) (10/6)
- Market scope: [blueberries](#) [blackberries](#) [raspberries](#) [strawberries](#)
Recent stories & fresh market pricing for the various berries from The Packer.
- [‘The Source’](#) (10/5) *Market updates from The Produce News.*

Food Safety

- [Flood of food imported to U.S., but only 2% inspected](#) (10/3, MSNBC)
- [New sleuths for food safety](#) (10/7, Wall Street Journal)

Labor/Immigration

- [Georgia companies claim labor losses of \\$75 million](#) (10/5, The Packer)
- [E-Verify on the hot seat](#) (10/6, GrowingProduce)
- [Georgia may use prisoners to fill farm labor gap](#) (10/5, Atlanta Journal)
- [Five states increase minimum wage rates](#) (10/5, HR.BLR.com)

The West

- [Northwest to ship blueberries into October](#) (9/21, The Packer)

North America

- [USDA awards specialty block grants worth \\$55 million](#) (10/5, Produce News Daily)
- [Blueberry powder fights breast cancer, study shows](#) (10/7, Fresh Fruit Portal)

International

- [Hortifrut sees opportunity in Mexico’s berries](#) (10/3, The Packer)
- [Mexico has favorable outlook for blackberries](#) (10/5, The Packer)
- [Argentina issues blueberry estimate](#) (9/29, The Packer)
- (South America) [California Giant Berry Farms enters fall with new blueberry crop](#) (10/7, Produce News Daily)
- [Mexico increases exports of strawberries to US](#) (9/29, FreshPlaza)
- [Uruguay to export 2,317,985 Kgs of blueberries this season](#) (10/5, FreshPlaza)
- [Chilean blueberry exports grow 40%](#) (9/28, FreshPlaza)

Pest Management Information

- **SWD:** [A summary of what we know so far about spotted wing Drosophila](#) (9/21, UC Davis Blog—Mark Bolda)

Insects/Mites

- **[Strawberry Crown Moth](#), strawberries:** Infested strawberry plants either completely collapse or are weakened and show premature reddening.
- **[Strawberry Crown Moth](#), blackberries:** In blackberries, primocanes are girdled and easily break during training. Infested fields show fewer, weaker canes.
- **Weevils, strawberries, blueberries:** [Black Vine](#), [Strawberry](#) and [Rough Strawberry](#) root weevils. As the weather cools, adults re-emerge from the soil. Rough Strawberry root weevils lay eggs in the fall as well as the spring and control measures need to be considered in problem areas.
- **[Redberry Mites](#), late ripening blackberries:** Evergreens are usually the hardest hit. The berries turn brick red and hard instead of ripening.

Diseases

- **[How to recognize Phytophthora & Pythium root rot in blueberries](#)** (8/24/10, Fruit Crop Advisory Team Alert)
- **Raspberry and blackberry fungal diseases:** [Blackberry Rust](#) (Phragmidium Rust) **evergreen blackberries**, [Phytophthora Root Rot](#) raspberries.

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Crop work

All crops

- Weed management.
- Apply lime, dolomite, gypsum and/or fall fertilizer.
- Scout for vole damage.

Blueberries post harvest

- Can apply copper or Bordeaux for bacterial canker.
- Prune out canker-killed branches and remove them from the field.
- Scout for weevils and weevil notching.

Caneberries post harvest

- Can cut out old floricanes now and tie up primocanes.
- Scout and mark problem weed areas that could be treated in the winter.
- Can subsoil and till in raspberries after harvest. The soil fractures much better when it is dry so it's best to do this before the fall rains start.
- For fields coming out this year, can basally spray with Roundup if perennial weeds are present.
- Can apply Ridomil for root rot control.
- Can apply copper or Bordeaux after tying up canes.
- Can drench for borer control.

Strawberries post harvest

- Can apply fertilizer.
- Scout weak areas for root weevil larvae, Strawberry Crown Moth, root disease or soil problems.
- Scout for weevil notching on leaves.
- Can apply drench for weevil larvae management.

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Archived Small Fruit Updates

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

[09-13-11](#)

[08-31-11](#)

[08-23-11](#)