

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.

November 18, 2011

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Featured Links:

- [University of the Fraser Valley announces Pacific Berry Resource Centre partnership](#) (11/3, UFV Today)
- [British Columbia Berry Grower Magazine](#) (Winter 2011-12 issue)
- [The Weather Cafe](#) by Rufus La Lone
- [AgWeatherNet Weather Outlook for Washington State](#)
- [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 & raspberries: (Monday, November 14) Finally got some big winds the last few days to take away leaves on the blues. We'll get some late coppers and Bordeaux on now. Some weed control done in blues and pruning in both raspberries and some blueberry fields are underway. Soil sampling ongoing as well as evaluating this seasons growth and the bud set.

Northern Washington, Whatcom County

Blueberries: (Friday, 11/11) Guess what?—cool and wet up here. Pruning and tying raspberries, a bit of copper and liming established fields going on. In blueberries, late season weed sprays like Stinger and 2,4-D going on as well as copper applications. Time for winter meetings and reflection time. Plus the late deer hunt is next Thursday-Sunday.

Willamette Valley, Oregon and SW Washington

Blueberries: (Wednesday, November 9) At Salem, we finished picking Aurora with the machine on 11/4..a late harvest record for this farm. Fall weed control is now in place. Our crews have been busy cutting our drip lines from out of the blueberry crowns. Lines placed close to the crown when the plants were young are now entrapped and strangled by new cane growth and we lost some fruit to drought this summer. Our own crew is conscientious about maintaining the lines outside the crown as they prune, but as contract crews do more and

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](#)

more of the pruning, this step gets missed. The 2011 season confirmed our need for more trellising on the farm and we hope to trellis 30 or more acres this winter. Fruit bud set is looking good...almost as good as last year at this time. Our last SWD spray was 10/18 and I see no evidence that blue fruit still hanging in the field is being stung.....too cold? We will copper spray Liberty this fall/winter/spring as odd cane problems are becoming apparent. Yields were up (over 2010) across all varieties with the exception of some Liberty and Bluegold blocks where the shock virus made a good run.

(Left) Fruit remaining in Aurora on 11/9 where the picking machine did not clean-up
(Right) Aurora showing great bud set on 11/9.



Photos by Jeff Flake

Canadian National Highbush Blueberry Council Being Proposed

- *The BC Blueberry Council invites BC Blueberry Growers to attend a meeting regarding the formation of a Canadian National Highbush Blueberry Council*
- What is a National Council? How would it affect me? Will this help my business? How much could it cost me? When and how would a vote take place?
- **Meeting Schedule**
- **November 22** — 6-7:30 Town & Country Inn, Delta
- **November 28** — 6-7:30 Swan E Set Bay Resort, Pitt Meadows
- **November 29**, — 6-7:30 Best Western Regency Inn, Abbotsford
- [Click here](#) for more details or call the BC Blueberry Council office at 604 864-2117 (email:info@bcblueberry.com)
- (Related article) [B.C. berry growers support concept of national councils](#) (The Grower.org)

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Event Calendar

- For more comprehensive event calendar, [click here](#).
- **November 22--- ORBC meeting** ~ 10 AM, Langdon Farms Golf Club Restaurant, Aurora. Call 541-758-4043 or [email Philip Gutt](#) for more information.
- **December 1 — Northwest Small Fruits Center annual conference** ~ Monarch Hotel, Portland, OR. [Click here](#) for the agenda and registration information.
- **December 7--- OSU & USDA-ARS Blueberry Nutrition Workshop** ~ 9-12:30, North Willamette Research & Extension Center, Aurora. \$45 Registration fee. Pre-registration required. [Click here](#) for full details.
- **December 7 — Washington Red Raspberry Commission meeting** ~ 1-4, Lynden, WA. Contact [Henry Bierlink](#) or call 360-354-8767 for more information.

- **December 8-9 — Washington Small Fruit Conference & Lynden Ag Show** ~ Northwest Washington Fairgrounds, Lynden, WA with remote viewing site in Eastern Washington & various side events. This event consolidates the Washington Raspberry and Blueberry industry seminars, expands the WSU Small Fruit Workshop (normally held at this time) to two days instead of one, and provides growers & industry vendors with new opportunities. [Click here](#) for full details on the agenda and registration.
- **December 14—Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission Annual meeting** ~ 8:30-1:30, Wellspring Medical Center, Woodburn, OR. [Click here for the agenda](#) or call 541-758-4043 or [email Philip Gutt](#) for more information.
- **December 15—OSU Blueberry Pruning Workshop** ~ 1-4 PM, North Willamette Research & Extension Center, Aurora. \$15 Registration fee. Pre-registration required. [Click here](#) for full details.

2012

- **January 9 —Oregon Blueberry Commission meeting & research updates** ~ 8-3, Room 202 A & B, 4001 Winema Place, Chemeteka Community College, Salem, OR. Call (503) 364-2944 for more information or [email](#) Brian Ostlund.
 - **8-10:30 am - Research Project Updates** [Click here](#) for the research update agenda. **Note:** *These are committee/commission research updates not the final reports. Final research reports will be given at the annual Blueberry Day at the Oregon Hort Society Seminars on 1/24 (see calendar item below). While these are open to the public & all are welcome, due to time constraints the Q&A time will be limited.*
 - **10:30-noon- OBC Committee meetings.**
 - **Noon -3 Regular commission meeting.**
- **January 9—Annual California strawberry production meeting** ~8-12:30, Shepard Hall, Santa Maria Public Library, Santa Maria, Cal. [Click here](#) for the agenda and registration links.
- **January 12—North Willamette Hort Society Berry Day** ~ Clackamas County Fairgrounds, Canby, OR. Details TBA.
- **January 16-18—North American Raspberry & Blackberry Conference**~ Kalahari Resort, Sandusky, OH. Educational sessions and two workshops. Held in conjunction with the Ohio Produce Growers & Marketers Congress, with a large trade show and multiple tracks of educational sessions. For more information, visit www.raspberryblackberry.com, email
- **January 19—Oregon Strawberry Commission meeting** ~ Noon, Roth's in Salem.. Call 541-758-4043 or [email Philip Gutt](#) for more information.
- **January 24—Oregon Horticulture Society Blueberry Seminar**~ Portland Expo Center (held in conjunction with the Northwest Ag Show). [Agenda.](#)
- **January 25—Oregon Horticulture Society Raspberry & Blackberry Seminar** ~8-noon, Portland Expo Center (held in conjunction with the Northwest Ag Show).
- **January 26 – 28—Pacific Agriculture Show & Horticulture Growers' Short Course** ~ Tradex Exhibition Center (Abbotsford Airport), Abbotsford, BC. [Click here](#) for Information.
- **February 18-22—International Strawberry Symposium** ~ Beijing, China. These International Society for Horticultural Science crop specific meetings are held every 3-5 years. [Click here](#) for details.
- **March 6—Oregon Blueberry Commission meeting** ~ 8am- research updates, 10:30am- committee meetings, 12pm- Commission meeting, location TBA. Call (503) 364-2944 for more information or [email](#) Brian Ostlund.

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Chemical Pest Management Material Update

- **Fumigation Update from WSU Berry Horticulturist, Tom Walters**
- "I just got back from the Methyl Bromide Alternatives conference, where there was a lot of discussion about MB finally getting completely phased out which is a particularly big deal for California strawberry growers. There was also a lot of information about farming without fumigants altogether, spurred on by EPA's tough new regulations on fumigants. I did a talk there on options for the berry nurseries;
- [Click here](#) to view the narrated slides.

- [Fumigant used on commercial California strawberry field—finally](#) (11/3, Growing Produce) *This is regarding the first use of Midas (Methyl iodide).*

Industry News/Resources

Newsletters

- [Michigan State Fruit News](#) (11/16)
- Market scope: [blueberries](#) [blackberries](#) [raspberries](#) [strawberries](#)
Recent stories & fresh market pricing for the various berries from The Packer.
- [‘The Source’](#) (11/14) *Market updates from The Produce News.*

Food Safety

- [Smucker recalls jars of chunky peanut butter](#) (11/17, USA Today)
- [Food-safety experts rethink advice after cantaloupe Listeria outbreak](#) (11/17, Denver Post)
- (Listeria) [Outbreak lawsuits target Wal-Mart, PrimusLabs](#) (11/11, The Packer)
- [Flawed state reporting leaves consumers vulnerable](#) (11/17, Food Safety News)
- [Farmers Markets thrive while concerns grow](#) (11/16, Food Safety News)

Labor/Immigration

- [Migrant workers scared off by immigration crackdowns](#) (11/9, Washington Post)

West

- [New small fruit varieties show promise](#) (11/14, Capital Press)
- [Record harvest for Whatcom raspberry farmers in 2011](#) (11/17, Bellingham Journal)

National

- [Higher costs cut into JM Smucker’s 2nd Quarter profits](#) (11/17, Kansas City Star)
- [‘Secret farm bill’ primed for passage in debt deal](#) (11/15, The Hill)
- [The Secret Farm Bill](#) (11/8, The New York Times editorial)

International

Chile

- [Agricultural Commission to analyze berry harvest problems due to volcanic ash fall](#) (11/17, FreshPlaza)
- [Chilean plans for blueberry exports to China move a step closer](#) (11/17, FreshFruitPortal)
- [Chile sees frozen fruit & vegetable export increases](#) (11/10, Frozen Foods Int. News)
- [Chile solidifies role as global source](#) (11/11, The Packer)
- [More Chilean blueberries likely: good grape crop too](#) (11/11, The Packer)
- [Organic Chilean blueberries strong, despite price points](#) (11/3, The Packer)
- [Blueberry main export destination is US](#) (11/9, FreshPlaza)

Other

- [South Korea’s opposition party refuse to ratify US trade deal...](#)(11/16, Washington Post)
- [Homegrown Organic Farms to launch import program](#) (11/10, The Packer)
- [Record export of Argentine blueberries](#) (11/10, FreshPlaza)

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Archived Small Fruit Updates

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

[10-22-11](#)

[10-07-11](#)

[09-13-11](#)