

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.

April 24, 2012

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Opinion: [Why growers should call the pricing shots](#) (4/23, Fresh Fruit Portal) by Golden Sun Marketing president, Don Goodwin

[Naturipe Farms announces fresh berries featuring Disney characters](#) (4/24, The Produce News) Single-serve packs

[Driscoll's launches new sustainable packing](#) (4/23, FreshPlaza) Raspberries, single layer

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

We've had a very welcome weather shift in the Willamette Valley this past week with record high temperatures on Sunday and a whole lot of sunshine. There's even talk about needing to irrigate! We've still got some wet weather coming but the soils are drying, blueberries and strawberries are blooming, the bees are flying, and there's a whole lot of tractor time being logged. Fields look very good, although Julie says I'm going to jinx things by predicting anything. I'll leave predicting to Rufus LaLone (our weather café guy)

Tom Peerbolt, SFU Editor

Management material update

Washington raspberries, Soil Fumigant:

From Tom Walters, WSU Small Fruit Horticulturist:

- "Washington State just issued a **SLN registration for Vydate** allowing applications to Western WA raspberry fields, as long as they will not be harvested within 12 months of application. This could also be helpful to growers who did not fumigate fields prior to planting, and are concerned about nematodes."
- [Click here](#) for the label.

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 (Monday, 4/23)

- **Blueberries:** Dukes should bloom within the next 7-10 days. Already some bloom is starting east of Abbotsford. Warmer weather should move things along. First fertilizer app's are just about done and hopefully the last of the primary mummyberry sprays are on. I'm noticing more wide-spread weevil activity in blueberry canopies throughout the area I travel. Not a good sign.
- **Raspberries:** Also, weevil activity in raspberries increased this past week. Wasn't really noticing much damage before this week. We did first two-spotted spider mite spray over weekend. We'll be watching closely in the coming week or so for needed pre-bloom control of this critter.

Northern Washington, Whatcom County

- **Raspberries:** (Tuesday, 4/24) We're seeing some yellow rust pustules on the upper side of raspberry leaves, none on the undersides yet. Also a bit of a mite upswing, some folks getting on some Acramite (miticide) early.

Northern Washington, Skagit County: (Tuesday, 4/24)

- **Strawberries:** First blooms in annual system strawberries (on black plastic).
- **Blueberries:** Early blueberry blossoms just opening, too.

Willamette Valley, Oregon and SW Washington

- **Blackberries, processed:** (Tuesday, 4/24) Some basal sprays going on the early blacks. Flower buds are readily visible although still very tight. Aliette or similar phosphite materials are being applied to those varieties susceptible to downy mildew. No signs of rust in the evergreens yet but I keep looking. It's now dry enough to mow or till the row middles – finally!

Marionberries on April 23, 2012. Photos by Bill Dinger



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Disease Alerts

Time to start scouting for:

Yellow Rust Raspberries –

- Yellow rust is now changing spore stages from black overwintering spores (teliospores) to yellow/orange colored 'blisters' (spermogonia) on the top surface of leaves.
- This is followed closely by a very visible, almost day glow orange/yellow spore stage (aecia).

- The fourth spore stage (uredinia) appears later in the season as yellow 'dust' on the bottom of leaves. This last stage is the one that multiplies quickly & can quickly defoliate canes if left untreated.
- Evaluate disease incidence and stage to determine whether (& when) fungicide applications are warranted.

Prime time for vector management:

Scorch virus - British Columbia Blueberries, Vector (aphid) management

- From an April, 2011 B.C. Pest Alert: "Blueberry scorch virus is transmitted by aphids. An effective aphid control program should be used by all growers. **Fields should be treated before bloom with a registered aphicide to control the over-wintering aphids before they reproduce and disperse.**"
- Click on the blue link above for full information from the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture.
- [Click here](#) for the 4/20 BC Blueberry Newsletter by Carolyn Teasdale with chemical recommendations.
- Direct questions to B.C. Blueberry Council's research coordinator, [Karina Sakalauskas](#) (604) 613-2133.

Prime Time to prevent:

Downey Mildew, boysenberries, Kotata blackberries (occasionally other blackberries): This is a systemic disease that only displays symptoms if environmental conditions are right in the spring. It can cause major losses due to misshapen berries. Phosphite applications in the spring are recommended to prevent outbreaks.

Prime Time to scout for:

Shock virus, southern blueberries.

- Symptoms are just becoming visible in many fields.
- This disease is vectored by pollinators.
- There is no treatment or cure.
- Infected bushes generally display symptoms for one year and then return to productivity.



Early Shock virus symptoms in Oregon blueberries Photos by Tom Peerbolt

Prime time to scout for and prevent: Mummyberry, all blueberries.

Fields at risk should have a protective fungicide on the susceptible tissue at this time to minimize infections.

- We have periods when plant tissue is continually wet for the 12 hours or more required for infection.
- Our temperatures are often in, or close to, the optimal range for infections to take place (50-57°F / 10-14°C).
- [Mummyberry primer from MSU](#)

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Classifieds

- **For Sale:** [Mclauchlan 500 berry washer](#) plus 15 foot inspection line. Great condition, all parts intact & working. Photos available. Located in Tacoma, WA. Contact Dick 253-318-9763, dick@terrysterries.com

Industry News/Resources

Newsletters/ Berry Reports

- [BC Blueberry IPM Newsletter](#) (4/20)
- [BC Blueberry Council March Newsletter](#)
- [New Jersey Blueberry Bulletin](#) (4/16) *Excellent weekly newsletter by Gary Pavlis, Rutgers blueberry agent.*
- [Michigan State Extension news for Blueberries](#) (4/24)
- [National Berry Report](#) *A daily-updated fresh market statistics report on all berry types hosted & maintained by the California Strawberry Commission*
- [Imperial Frozen Foods Newsletter](#) for 4/16 Market Updates

Magazine compilations

- The Packer's Market scope: [blueberries](#) [blackberries](#) [raspberries](#) [strawberries](#)
Recent stories & fresh market pricing for the various berries from The Packer.
- Growing Produce: [Recent Berry Articles](#)

Berry Research Blogs

- [Strawberries and Caneberries blog](#) by Mark Bolda, UC Davis Berry Extension Agent. *Reports on recent insect and disease research & observations in California.*
- [Team Rubus](#) by Gina Fernandez, North Carolina State Small Fruit Specialist. *Reports on issues in blackberries and raspberries from the Southeast.*
- [The NC Blueberry Journal](#), by Bill Cline, North Carolina researcher & extension specialist, *Reports on issues in blueberries from the Southeast.*

Research

- [Catching weevils with odours](#) (4/20, HortBiz)

National

- [Senate release draft of 2012 Farm Bill](#) (4/23, Fruit Growers News)
- (Cal) [Some blueberries get early start](#) (4/20, FreshPlaza)
- (Cal) [Blueberry production quickly gains steam in California](#) (4/19, The Packer)

Extension

- **Oregon State:** "Blueberry Economics: The Costs of Establishing and Producing Blueberries in the Willamette Valley". [Click here](#) for the 26 page pdf file.
- **Online extension publications & books**
 - **Oregon State:** [Click here](#) for their "Berries & Grapes" publications & factsheets.
 - **Washington State:** [Click here](#) for their "Agriculture" listings. They include a websites sections.

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Management material resources

- [Mite control options in fruit crops](#). Posted 4/24/12 . MSU Extension. A table of materials and key variables.
- [Information on 'Copper products, characteristics and uses'](#) Posted 4/12/11. MSU Extension. Includes a table of materials and key variables.

Additional, Ongoing Pest Management & IPM Information

Diseases

- **Risk higher than normal:** [Blackberry Rust \(Phragmidium Rust\)](#) **Evergreen blackberries:** *Warming temperatures & long periods of leaf wetness favor Phragmidium rust infections.*
- **Prime Time to Scout for:** [Pseudomonas \(Bacterial Blight\)](#) **blueberries-** *Water-soaked lesions can appear at this time of year on canes that then develop into reddish brown to black cankers.*

Insects/Mites

- **[Azalea Bark Scale](#), blueberries.** *This scale's telltale bright white egg sacs on the lower branches of infested plants are becoming more apparent in some southern blueberry fields.*
- **Root Weevils, strawberries.** Larvae of **[Black Vine](#), [Rough Strawberry](#), [Strawberry Root Weevils](#)** are now being recovered from some strawberry fields.
- **[Blueberry Gall Midge](#), southern blueberries.**
- **Prime Time to Scout for: Mites in raspberries (northern growing areas): [Twospotted mites](#) [Yellow mites](#)** *There are reports of higher than normal early mite populations in northern raspberry fields.*
- **Prime Time to Scout for: [Winter Moth/Bruce Span Worm](#) blueberries**
- **Alert: There are field reports of damage from this weevil at this time: Prime Time to Scout for: [Clay Colored Weevils](#) northern raspberries & blueberries:** *This early emerging species is a pest in northern growing areas where it feeds on newly emerging shoots and buds.*
- **Prime Time to Scout for: [Strawberry Crown Moth](#) southern strawberries:** *As plant growth resumes, plants weakened by SCM can be spotted. Infested plants will have a weakened crown and often will break off with a pull on the top growth.*
- **[Redberry Mite](#) evergreen blackberries:** *Delayed dormant sprays of lime/sulfur or elemental sulfur for Blackberry Rust and Redberry Mite are recommended ASAP.*

Event Calendar

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

- **May 2 — Sumas Aquifer Groundwater Nitrate Science Forum II** ~ subtitled “What have we learned since the 2007 forum?” ~ 8:30-4:30, Matsqui Centennial Auditorium, Abbotsford City Hall, 32315 South Fraser Way, Abbotsford, BC. [Click here](#) for the draft agenda. For information contact Bernie Zearth, Bernie.zearth@agr.gc.ca ; 506-452-4828.
- **May 1 — Annual U.C. Extension Watsonville Strawberry Pomology Field Day** ~ 1-3:30, Watsonville Research Facility. [Click here](#) for details.
- **May 3 — Oregon Strawberry Commission meeting** ~ 5:30, Langdon Farms Golf Club Restaurant, Aurora, OR. For more information, call 541-758-4043 or [email](#) Philip Gutt.
- **May 7 — Oregon Blueberry Commission meeting** ~ Noon, Roth's West, Salem, OR (Budget Hearing). Call (503) 364-2944 for more information or [email](#) Brian Ostlund.
- **June 3-7 — International Raspberry Organization Conference** ~ Abbotsford, BC. Plans are being made for the one day 8th IRO conference and for raspberry tours in the Fraser Valley and in NW Washington.

Oregon State Open House Schedule

More information on these will be coming as they get closer. They'll be at the North Willamette Research & Extension Center in Aurora.

- **June 13 — Strawberry Open House**, starting at 1pm
- **July 11 — Caneberry Open House**, starting at 1pm
- **July 12 — Blueberry Field Day**, from 1 to 5pm

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Nutrient Management

- **Blueberries:** [Click here](#) for OSU's “Nutrient Management in Blueberries” (16 page pdf).
- **Caneberries:** [Click here](#) for OSU's “Nutrient Management Guide—Caneberries” (8 page pdf).

Crop Work

All crops

- Vole management.
- Weed management.
- Fertilizer program.
- Can put out monitoring traps for Spotted Wing Drosophila.

Blueberries

- Scout for Winter Moth/Spanworm and treat as needed.

- (Northern areas) Scout for Clay Colored Weevil feeding and treat as needed.
- Scout for mummyberries and treat as needed.
- Scout for leafroller larvae feeding.
- Plan for pre-bloom aphid control where scorch virus transmission is an issue.
- Plan for pre-bloom aphid control where Scorch virus transmission is an issue.
- Scout for virus symptoms & send in samples for testing as needed.
- Bring in bees around 10-15% bloom.
- Scout for scale insects.
- Scout for weevil notching.

Blackberries

- Can apply lime sulfur for Redberry Mites and/or disease management.
- Can apply phosphite material for Downey Mildew prevention in Boysens and Kotatas.
- Scout for virus symptoms & send in samples for testing as needed.
- Burn back primocanes as needed.

Evergreen Blackberries

- Can still apply a delayed dormant spray of lime/sulfur or elemental sulfur for Redberry mites and Blackberry Rust.

Raspberries

- Burn back primocanes as needed.
- (northern areas) Scout for Clay
- 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.

Strawberries

- As plants start to grow, watch for weak growing areas and check plants for weevil larvae, root rot and/or cold damage.
- (Southern strawberries) Can scout for Strawberry Crown Moth larvae.
- Can apply phosphite materials to strengthen root systems
- Can apply fungicide at 10% bloom.

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Archived Small Fruit Updates

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

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[04-10-12](#)

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