

# 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 and industry through their commissions and councils.

June 6, 2012

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### [British Columbia Berry Grower](#) (Summer, 2012)

This is the online version. Articles include:

- Vole Problem Overrated? (in blueberries)
- Growing need to Certify
- Time's ripe for a Change (in raspberry varieties)

### [Little Blue Dynamo's channel](#) (on You Tube)

A compilation of blueberry videos put together by the USHBC.

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

### [Jerry Alamwala \(1961-2012\)](#)

From Mike Makara on behalf of the BC Blueberry Council:

"The saddest of days. On June 2nd, Jerry Alamwala passed away as a result of complications from an injury he sustained several days previously while farming. Jerry was a pillar in the agricultural industry, a very classy honourable sharing farmer with a fantastic work ethic that earned him respect and recognition from his peers. Jerry and his family grew vegetables and berries and in every enterprise Jerry was a standout, not only from the farming aspect but also his caring relationships he had with his family, friends and associates. We will miss you greatly Jerry for your friendship, the many contributions you have made to our industry and your great example of what a father and husband should be. Our sympathies to all the Alamwala Family."



The funeral will be June 7(Thursday) at 10:00am at the Abbotsford Arts and Entertainment Centre on King Road. [Click here](#) for Jerry's obituary

As Mark Sweeney, BC Berry Specialist, says, "...he was the best of growers and the best of men."

Thank you, Jerry. You enriched all of our lives. Tom, SFU editor.

### 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](#)

## **SWD alert for Oregon and SW Washington strawberries**

- Survey trap numbers continue to indicate higher populations of Spotted Wing Drosophila than in the previous two seasons.
- Strawberry harvest has begun in the Willamette valley with the major harvest for processing set to begin late this week or early next week.
- Given the amount of ripe and ripening fruit now in the fields that will attract SWD, the apple cider vinegar attractant used in the monitoring traps can no longer be depended upon as a reliable indicator of the presence or absence of this vinegar fly.
- All growers are encouraged to be proactive:
  - Consider applications of insecticides to prevent potential fruit infestation.
  - Monitor fruit closely both before and during harvest for SWD larvae.
  - Be knowledgeable regarding control measure options and be able to react quickly if any infestation is detected.

## **Management Material Update—MRL violation on blueberries sent to Japan**

- A recent shipment of blueberries to Japan was found to have malathion residue above the maximum allowed. (Japan's MRL is 0.5 ppm, the U.S. MRL is 8.0 ppm)
- As a result of this violation it is expected that the normal testing of 3-5% of shipments will be heightened to testing 30% of shipments.
- Shipments from the supplier with the violation will be tested and held.
- Should a second malathion violation occur, 100% of shipments could be tested and held.
- After a set number of clean shipments, normally 60, testing levels should fall back to normal levels.
- All shippers sending blueberries to Japan should expect this elevated testing, and take added precautions to not exceed the malathion tolerance.

## **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, 6/5)**

- **Blueberries and Raspberries:** There is not a lot of positive things in blues and raspberries at the moment. Continued wet weather is bringing on some botrytis in green fruit blues. Leafrollers are present in many fields and can be found in fruit clusters. Aphids are starting to colonize. Can't treat either until bees are gone and weather improves. Seeing quite a bit of bacterial blight in Drapers. On a positive note, vegetative growth has been excellent with early warm soils this spring and abundant moisture as compared to last season. Raspberries continue in early bloom but it's difficult to spray in this weather.

### **Northern Washington, Whatcom County (Monday, 6/4)**

- **Blueberries:** We're seeing some green berry botrytis in the Dukes, lots of shock, mummyberry and botrytis drying up. Wet weather all week may change that.
- **Raspberries:** Not great pollination weather this week, mites and yellow rust in remission, root rot popping up all over.
- **Strawberries:** Strawberries sizing slowly, only weevil spots to worry about currently.

### **Willamette Valley, Oregon and SW Washington**

- **Blackberries, processed:** (Monday, 6/4) First bloom in evergreens today, June 4, last year it was June 13, still running about 9 to 10 ahead of last year. I did not notice any rust today. Marionberries are just past full bloom (10 days ahead of last year) with the appropriate bloom sprays either on or going on. Pollination looks good. We got a little rain today but not enough. If we don't get much more it will be time to get out the pipe. AY(*Alternate year cropping system*) guys are doing the first training of the primocanes for next year's crop. All of the blacks continue to look good.



*Marionberries just past full bloom on June 4 (Photos by Bill Dinger)*

**Blueberries:** (Monday, 6/6) At Salem, we saw first blue in Duke today (6/4). One of our fields was unlucky enough to receive hail and we hope that the look improves as the berries size and color. Overall the crop looks great with very low incidence of the green berry botrytis that was so prevalent the last two springs.



*First blue in Duke (6/4, Salem) (Photos by Jeff Flake) Damage to Duke from late May hail event*

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## **Pest Alerts**

### **Time to scout for symptoms and send in sample as needed: Scorch virus - British Columbia Blueberries**

- Bloom is the best time to walk the fields to identify bushes showing virus symptoms.
- It can be very difficult to be able to distinguish between scorch and shock virus symptoms in the fields. Testing is a way to be sure.
  - [Click here](#) for the BCAGRI blueberry scorch virus link.
  - [Click here](#) for more information on shock Virus.
- The BC Blueberry Council is providing free scorch and shock virus testing for all BC blueberry growers again in 2012 (up to a maximum of 10 samples per field).
- The BCAGRI Plant Diagnostics Laboratory in Abbotsford is now accepting virus samples.

- Email the B.C. Blueberry Council's research coordinator, Karina Sakalauskas at [ksakalauskas@yahoo.com.ar](mailto:ksakalauskas@yahoo.com.ar) or call her at 604-613-2133) for more information.

**Time for preventative fungicide applications: [Alternaria Fruit Rot](#)**

Alternaria can infect the fruit beginning at the end of bloom and throughout the fruit development stage, up until harvest. Infections remain latent until the fruit ripens. Infected fruits exhibit a shriveling or caving-in of the side of the berry and become watery in storage. ([Click here for expanded view of this disease.](#))

**Time for preventative fungicide applications: [Anthracnose Ripe Rot](#)**

If you've had problems with Anthracnose, prevention of a reoccurrence begins at petal fall. Symptoms: First, blighting of shoot tips; then, a few flowers turn brown or black. Leaf spots, when they occur, are large or small and roughly circular. As infected berries ripen, the flower end may soften and pucker. Under warm and rainy conditions, salmon-colored spore masses form on infected berries. After harvest, spore masses form rapidly on infected fruit when in cellophane-covered baskets or in plastic clamshell packs. ([Click here for expanded view of this disease.](#))

**Time to scout for and evaluate if management action is needed: [Powdery Mildew Strawberries.](#)**

Dry, warm, humid conditions favor powdery mildew in strawberries. ([Click here for expanded view of this disease.](#))

**Time to scout for and evaluate if management action is needed: [Yellow mites Raspberries](#)**

This mite is smaller and paler than two-spotted mite and has less webbing. It has been found at treatable levels in raspberries in all growing regions. ([Click here for expanded view of this pest.](#))

**Time to scout for and evaluate if management action is needed: [Blackberry Rust \(Phragmidium Rust\) Evergreen blackberries](#)**

This disease is of economic threat to only to Evergreen blackberries where it can be devastating. There are reports of it being present in fields at this time. Treatment is recommended. Rally (myclobutanil) is particularly effective.

**Time to scout for and evaluate if management action is needed: [Yellow Rust Raspberries](#)**

Evaluate disease incidence and stage to determine whether (and when) fungicide applications are warranted.

**Time to scout for: Root Weevil adults, strawberries. [Black Vine](#), [Rough Strawberry](#), [Strawberry Root Weevils](#).** Weevils are now pupating and beginning to emerge as adults in southern strawberry fields. About 30 days after emergence, these adults are capable of laying eggs for the next generation. This window of time right after emergence is the optimum time to kill them—*before egg laying begins!*

**Time to scout for and evaluate fruit infection rates: [Mummyberry](#), all blueberries.**

As fruit starts to size, infected fruit will become easy to distinguish. [Mummyberry primer from MSU](#)

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## Spotted Wing Drosophila Update for 6-6-12

*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](#)

### General Comments

- This week processed strawberry harvest will begin in Western Oregon and SW Washington. There's a lot of ripe and ripening fruit now susceptible to SWD damage.
- Many commercial strawberry growers go on with a pre harvest broad spectrum insecticide (usually bifenthrin) for weevil and strawberry crown moth management. This application will also be effective for SWD control.

- Some cherry sites as well as some wild habitat sites continue to record very high numbers of SWD adults.
- With ripe fruit competing with the SWD traps for attracting flies, the apple cider vinegar traps should not be used as a valid indicator of the presence or absence of SWD.
- Some of the adult flies now being caught are of the newly hatched first seasonal generation and not overwintering adults.
- Duke blueberries in the same region are just beginning to color. At this point there are no recommendations for treating them this early.

### Pictorial chart of other vinegar fly species that could be mistaken for SWD

*This is from Penn State. I'd need some input from our regional entomologists to say how well this applies to the northwest but it's something we need—a way for everyone to be able to distinguish SWD from look-a-likes.*

- [Click here](#) for the fact sheet with photos.

### SWD in the news

- [Spotted wing drosophila makes early appearance](#) (5/31, Capital Press)
- [SWD risk to Oregon early fruit heightened](#) (5/18, Capital Press)

### Regional Monitoring (South to North)

#### Oregon Public Scouting Program count for the week ending on 6/1

*(Number of traps checked this period in the crop in parentheses).*

*This scouting program and reporting system are being funded by a USDA SCRI grant, and a Northwest Center for Small Fruits Research grant*

- **Linn County: Apples(1): none. Blackberries (7): 1 male/5 females. Black Raspberries (2): none. Blueberries (3): none. Other caneberries (4): none. Cherries (2): 6 males/18 females. Grapes (2): no males/2 females. Peaches (2): 3 males/43 females. Pears (1): 2 males/5 females. Plum(2) no males/1 female. Raspberries (3): 2 males/5 females. Strawberries (8): no males/ 2 females. Tayberries (1): none Wild Habitat (19) 42 males/198 females.**
- **Polk County: Cherries (2): no males/1 female.**
- **Benton County: Cherries (2): 2 male/9 females. Nectarine (1): 1 male/no females. Peach (2): 3 males/2 females. Raspberry (1):none. Wild Habitat (4): 2 males/6 females.**
- **Marion County: Strawberries (16): 1 male/2 females. Cherries (2): 510 males/200 females**
- **Clackamas County: Strawberries (2): none. Honeysuckle (1): none.**
- **Yamhill County: Cherries (6): none. Strawberries (7): none.**
- **Multnomah County: Strawberries (5): no males/ 2 females. Cherries (1): no males/ 2 females. Blackberries (1): no males/1 female. Salmonberry (3): no males/ 3 females.**

#### Southwest Washington Public Scouting Program for the two weeks ending on 5/4

- **Clark/Cowlitz/Lewis Counties: Strawberries (8): 11 males/ 18 females. Cherries (2): 25 males/20 females.**

### Eastern Washington

- [Click here](#) for the WSU Eastern Washington SWD reporting site.
- **Latest report from the WSU site--Tuesday, June 5: "Positive find in Orondo this week. A single male was found in a trap in the Orondo region earlier this week. This brings the total to eight positive regions to date."**

### Western Washington--WSU Extension Scouting Program

*This scouting program and reporting system are being coordinated by Whatcom County Extension and funded in part by the Washington Red Raspberry Commission.*

- [Click here](#) for information on the program.

- In addition to fields being covered by the Raspberry Commission funding, scouting services will be available on a fee for service basis.
- If you are interested in services, contact Colleen Burrows at 360-676-6736 x 22 or [cburrows@wsu.edu](mailto:cburrows@wsu.edu).

### British Columbia

- [Click here](#) for the SWD Ministry of Agriculture site.
- [Click here](#) for the June 4<sup>th</sup> report for coastal B.C. Traps are just being set up this week.
- [Click here](#) for the B.C. Southern Interior Valleys report. During this past week, with more than 180 traps set up, there have been six confirmed females trapped primarily in cherry orchards.

## SWD Management Material Resources

### **Oregon and Washington**

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

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

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## **Additional, Ongoing Pest Management and IPM Information**

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### **Diseases**

- [Phytophthora Root Rot](#) raspberries.
- [Purple Blotch](#) blackberries.
- [Shock virus](#), Blueberries.

### **Insects/Mites**

- **Scout for:** [Raspberry Beetle](#), northern raspberries.
- **Scout for:** Mites in raspberries: [Twospotted mites](#)
- **Scout for:** [Winter Moth/Bruce Span Worm](#) blueberries.
- **Scout for:** [Clay Colored Weevils](#) northern raspberries and blueberries.
- **Scout for:** [Strawberry Crown Moth](#) southern strawberries.
- **Scout for:** [Azalea Bark Scale](#), southern blueberries.
- **Scout for:** [Blueberry Gall Midge](#), blueberries.

## **Industry News/Resources**

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### Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission Openings

- Nominations are still being solicited for open positions for 2 producers, 1 handler and 1 public member.
- [Click here](#) for application information and forms or call Kris Anderson at 503-872-6600.

### Newsletters/ Berry Reports

- [BC Blueberry IPM Newsletter](#) (6/2) Weekly by Carolyn Teasdale, [ES Cropconsult](#). Sponsored by the BC Blueberry Council.
- [New Jersey Blueberry Bulletin](#) (5/28) Weekly by Gary Pavlis, Rutgers blueberry agent.
- [Michigan State Extension news for Blueberries](#) (6/5)
- [Fruit Production Digest](#) (6/5, Michigan State)
- [The Source](#) (6/4) Market reports from The Produce News
- [National Berry Report](#) A daily-updated fresh market statistics report on all berry types hosted and maintained by the California Strawberry Commission

### Magazine compilations

- The Packer's Market scope: [blueberries](#) [blackberries](#) [raspberries](#) [strawberries](#)  
Recent stories and 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. **Most recent entry: 6/5—Pruning of 'Natchez' blackberry** Reports on recent insect and disease research and observations in California.
- [Team Rubus](#) by Gina Fernandez, North Carolina State Small Fruit Specialist. **Most recent entry: 5/30—White (grey or tan) drupelets** Reports on issues in blackberries and raspberries from the Southeast.
- [NC Small Fruit and Specialty Crop IPM](#) by Hannah Burrack, NCSU extension entomologist. **Recent entry: 6/4—Results for multi state spotted wing drosophila project: what's next for eFly.**

## **Breeding**

- [Cornell strikes gold with two new raspberries](#) (5/31, The Grower)

## **Farm Bill**

- [Farm Bill on the move in Senate](#) (6/4, Politico)

## **Health Research**

- [Blueberries speed muscle recovery after exercise](#) (6/1, Western Farm Press)

## **The West**

- (San Joaquin Valley) [Results in for best SJV blueberry varieties](#) (6/4, Western Farm Press)

## **National**

- [U.S. farm exports reach second highest level on record](#) (6/1, usagnet)
- [July fourth may see tight supplies of corn, blueberries](#) (6/1, The Packer)
- [Fewer bee looses reported](#) (6/1, Growing Produce)
- (Florida) [Analyzing blueberries under high tunnels](#) (6/1, Growing Produce)
- (Georgia) [June is Georgia blueberry month](#) (6/4, FreshPlaza)

## **International**

- (Belgium) [Soft fruit a month later than last year](#) (6/1, Fresh Plaza)

## **Event Calendar**

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

- **June 13 — OSU Strawberry Open House** ~ [Click here](#) for the details on the agenda.  
*More information on the below events will be coming as they get closer. They'll be at the North Willamette Research and Extension Center in Aurora.*
- **July 11 — OSU Caneberry Open House**, starting at 1pm
- **July 12 — OSU Blueberry Field Day**, from 1 to 5pm
- **July 20 and 21 — Oregon Berry Festival** ~ Portland, [Click here](#) for the Website. Sponsors and vendors are welcome!

## **Crop Work**

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### **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.
- Scout for mummyberry.
- Scout for leafroller larvae feeding.
- Stay on top of aphid management where Scorch virus transmission is an issue.
- Scout for virus symptoms and send in samples for testing as needed.
- (South) Scout for Azalea Bark Scale.
- Scout for Blueberry gall midge damage.
- Can apply fungicides for fruit/blossom rot from 10% bloom through the end of bloom.
- After petal fall, can treat for alternaria and anthracnose prevention if needed.
- Scout for berry symptoms like green fruit botrytis, hail damage, mummyberry, etc.

### **Blackberries**

- Scout for virus symptoms and send in samples for testing as needed.

- Can put out pheromone trap to monitor for leafrollers.
- Have bees in by 10% bloom.
- Can apply fungicides for fruit/blossom rot from 10% bloom through the end of bloom.

### **Evergreen Blackberries**

- (South) Scout for and treat as needed for Blackberry rust.

### **Raspberries**

- (North) Scout for Clay Colored weevils.
- (North) Scout for raspberry beetle feeding symptoms.
- Scout for virus symptoms and send in samples for testing as needed.
- Scout for Cane Blight and Cane Botrytis symptoms.
- Can apply a phosphite material for stronger root growth and root rot prevention.
- Can put out pheromone traps to monitor for leafrollers.
- Scout for Yellow Rust and assess treatment options.
- Scout for spider mites and treat as needed.
- Can apply fungicides for fruit/blossom rot from 10% bloom through the end of bloom.

### **Strawberries**

- Watch for weak growing areas and check plants for weevil larvae, root rot and/or cold damage.
- Scout for fruit damage symptoms like cat facing, slug damage, anthracnose, etc.
- Monitor ripe and ripening fruit for SWD larvae.
- (South) Can scout for Strawberry Crown Moth larvae and put out pheromone monitoring traps.
- Can apply fungicide starting at 10% bloom for fruit/blossom rot.
- (South) Scout for weevil adults and notching.
- Can apply slug bait as needed.
- Scout for Powdery Mildew and treat as needed.
- Scout for Two Spotted Spider Mites and predatory, beneficial mites.
- Scout for aphids.

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## **Archived Small Fruit Updates**

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

[05-29-12](#)

[05-22-12](#)

[05-15-12](#)

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This document is a guide and not intended as a recommendation or endorsement.

Consult with your supplier, field representative, or pest consultant.

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