

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 12, 2012

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[Immigration Policy and It's Possible Effects on U.S. Agriculture](#) (6/5, USDA Economic Research Service)

[Growth in legal workforce key for fruit and vegetable future](#) (6/1, The Packer) Opinion piece on the USDA analysis above.

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



Bernadine Strik, Bob Martin, Chad Finn, and Wei Yang, taking their jobs very seriously.

OSU's Strawberry Open House is this Wednesday, 6/13, at the [North Willamette Research and Extension Center](#). It starts at 1 o'clock ([Click here](#) for the agenda). The raspberry and blackberry day is on July 11th and the blueberry day is July 12th. Better show up or we might have to send these guys after you.

Seriously, I know field days happen during harvest which makes it tough for growers to attend, but what use would a field day be if you didn't have ripe fruit and growing plants to evaluate?

These field days give growers and industry people a unique opportunity to assess the latest plant material developments and interact with our 'more-valuable-than-ever' (given budget cuts and lost positions) berry

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](#)

research and extension people from both OSU and the USDA's NW Center for Small Fruits Research. They are our 'Research and Development' team and they do take their jobs very seriously.

And, speaking of losing researchers, [Denny Bruck](#), USDA entomologist at the NW Center for Small Fruits Research, announced this last week that he has accepted a position with Pioneer Hi-Bred in Johnston, Iowa. We're going miss Denny both professionally and personally. He's been one of our touchstones on SWD as well as other berry insects. Can't fault someone for going home. Good luck, Denny. It's been great working with you!

Tom Peerbolt, SFU Editor

Management Material Update—MRL violations on blueberries sent to Japan—New Information

- In addition to the shipment of blueberries to Japan that was found to have malathion residue above the maximum allowed (reported last week), two shipments were also found to have higher than allowed levels of methoxyfenozide (Intrepid).
- As a result of these violations, Japan has now instituted a test and hold until test results are received (up to five business days) for 100% of blueberry shipments.
- All shippers sending blueberries to Japan should expect this elevated testing, and take added precautions to not exceed the malathion tolerance or any other Japanese MRL.
- [Click here](#) for the blueberry MRL listings for Japan and some other trading partners.
- The North American Blueberry Council (NABC) is working with Japanese officials to resolve this issue ASAP.
- For more details on this situation, contact the North American Blueberry Council or your state blueberry commission. [Click here](#) for NABC website. NABC phone number is (916) 983-2279.

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 6/8) Blueberries no colour (yes it is COLOUR), yet at all, but sizing up nicely.
- **Blueberries:** (Monday 6/11) Continued cool, wet weather putting the pressure on for green berry rot in the blues. The late bloom on Liberty, Elliott and Bluecrop will probably suffer some compromised pollination as well due to the last 10 days of poor conditions. Aphid populations are starting to rise and will need to be addressed this week if we can get some decent spraying weather in. A lot of shock virus this season. This virus seems to be expanding about as fast as the blueberry acreage does.
- **Raspberries:** (Friday 6/8) Raspberries a good two weeks before weak and young fields will produce quantity.
- **Raspberries:** (Monday 6/11) Raspberries are developing a lot of green fruit but I am seeing considerable malformed early fruit. Not hard to believe with current the weather program. So could be a potential for some early crumbly picks.
- **Strawberries:** (Friday 6/8) Eastern reaches of the Fraser Valley are now selling strawberries commercially already, right on time for a normal year. Day neutral's have been selling for over a week, nice fruit, on black plastic and raised beds. Fruit sizing up, need some sun to make them taste sweet though, had an unusual amount of liquid sunshine come down over the past 10 days.

Northern Washington, Whatcom County (Monday, 6/11)

- **Blueberries:** There's not near as much green berry botrytis as last year. We've got some yellow fruit drop from non-pollination in the 1613's and Bluejay. The bloom wrapping up in all but the Liberty and Draper.
- **Raspberries:** We've got as much root rot as I've ever seen. A few aphids are showing up already. Most growers are on their 3rd bloom fungicide spray. Watch newly planted fields for weevils and slugs.
- **Strawberries:** Strawberries are still 10-14 days from harvest. A few aphids on the new growth, and weevil adults are emerging.

Willamette Valley, Oregon and SW Washington

- **Blackberries, processed:** (Tuesday, 6/12) Rain was welcome, for now it saved getting the water going. Evergreens are just getting bloom started, less than 5%. It does not seem like it but blackberry harvest is less than a month away, hoping for no weather extremes, should be a good crop.

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Marionberries just finishing bloom on June 11, 2012 (Photos by Bill Dinger)

- **Blueberries:** (Tuesday, 6/12) Harvest for Dukes is still looking like starting around July 1 for the main mid and northern valley fields. Some fields in the south valley could start around the 22nd or 23rd. Some serious hail damage from last week's storms has been reported- as usual -just isolated (unlucky) fields. The other downside news is the amount of Shock in some fields. Some Liberty and Blue Gold fields are over 20% and even a couple of Elliott fields are at that level. Unusual for Elliott. But overall it's still a good crop that's sizing well with less green berry botrytis than previous years.
- **Gooseberries:** (Tuesday, 6/12) The first tart gooseberries will be coming in next week with the red, sweet ones due in the beginning of July. Not as many of these being planted or harvested as previously. Most likely that's partly due to consumer preferences for sweet fruit and not as many people baking. Too bad.
- **Strawberries:** Processed strawberry harvest is now going. Some fields started last Saturday, some on Sunday. Tillamooks, Totems, Hoods, and Valley Red are all coming in. Good looking fruit with excellent size. Could definitely use some more pickers out there. The mild weather will help the fruit hold in the field. No major slug or mold problems. Sprays went on last week just before harvest for SWD and weevils. Albions are coming in steadily for the fresh market.

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.
- [Click here](#) for the BCAGRI blueberry scorch virus link.
- 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 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: [Yellow mites](#) Raspberries

This mite is smaller and paler than two-spotted mite and has less webbing. It has been found earlier 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

Time to scout for: Root Weevil adults, strawberries. [Black Vine](#), [Rough Strawberry](#), [Strawberry Root Weevils](#). Weevils are emerging as adults in all regions. 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: [Mummyberry](#)

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

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Spotted Wing Drosophila Update for 6-12-12

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

Some important points to keep in mind:

- ***Our first and foremost goal remains minimizing crop losses for the industry in 2012.***
- The monitoring program is still a work in progress.
- While continuing to collect monitoring data, researchers are exploring various trap baiting materials, various trap height placements, and various trap field densities to improve our ability to monitor SWD, and better predict economic crop thresholds, and treatment types, and timing.
- While we've got two full season's experience with SWD, this is still another learning year for all of us especially since this year's mild winter and warmer spring present us with a different conditions and different SWD dynamics. There's still a lot we just don't know and can't predict about SWD.
- Growers are encouraged to be conservative, pro-active, and responsible in making their management decisions.
- We will see increased pressure on the crops as the fly moves into later generations and increases in numbers.

Regional Monitoring Comments

Central and northern Willamette Valley and Southwest Washington

- Two major factors are now impacting the monitoring trap counts: Ripe/ripening fruit competing with the attractiveness of the apple cider vinegar and insecticide applications.

- Overall trap counts declined over the last week in many cherry and strawberry sites due most likely to insecticide applications.
- In comparing sites, trap counts are still higher than at the same time in 2010 and 2011.
- With strawberries now being harvested, we have begun some field sampling of fruit for the presence of larvae using inundation of the fruit in a salt solution to draw out the larvae.
- Larval detections have been from one strawberry field sample (3 larvae in about 25 berries) as well as from salmonberries on a field border (2 larvae).
- With blueberries starting to color we've begun monitoring for adult SWD in a much larger number of blueberry fields in the Willamette Valley and SW Washington.
- OSU entomologist Amy Dreves has recovered high larval numbers from some ornamental plant berries in the Corvallis area.

SWD Resource

- [New SWD fact sheet for caneberry growers](#) from North Carolina State's Hannah Burrack.

Regional Monitoring (South to North)

Oregon Public Scouting Program count for the week ending on 6/8

(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):** no males/1 female. **Black Raspberries (2):** none. **Blueberries (6):** no males/ 1 female. **Other caneberries (4):** no males/ 2 females. **Cherries (2): 29 males/34 females.** **Grapes (2):** none. **Honeysuckle (1):** no males/1 female. **Peaches (2): 7 males/29 females.** **Pears (1):** 1 male/4 females. **Plum(2)** 1 male/no females. **Raspberries (3):** no males/1 female. **Strawberries (12):** no males/ 2 females. **Tayberries (1):** no males/1 female. **Wild Habitat (20) 32 males/179 females.**
- **Benton County: Peach (2):** 1 male/2 females. **Raspberry (1):**none.
- **Marion County: Strawberries (15):** none. **Cherries (3): 136 males/67 females.**
- **Clackamas County: Strawberries (4):** none. **Honeysuckle (1):** none.
- **Yamhill County: Cherries (1):** none. **Strawberries (7):** 1 male/no females.
- **Multnomah County: Blackberries (1):** no males/8 females. **Strawberries (4):** no males/ 1 female. **Cherries (1):** 1 male/4 females. **Salmonberry (3):** none.

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

- **Clark/Cowlitz/Lewis Counties: Strawberries (9): 12 males/27 females. Cherries (2): 86 males/74 females.**

Eastern Washington

- [Click here](#) for the WSU Eastern Washington SWD reporting site.
- **Latest report from the this site--Friday, June 8:** "The Orondo region added a second SWD capture site this week. The number of SWD in the positive traps from all regions remains low, mostly single specimens, of which 90% are female."

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. "A limited number of raspberry fields are now being scouted covering a diverse range of area in Whatcom, Skagit, and Piece counties."
- **Latest reports from this site--Friday, June 8:** "23 female and 9 male SWD were found in Lynden region of Whatcom County. **June 7, 2012:** "1 female found in Sumas North region. 1 male and 3 females found in Sumas South region."

- For information contact Colleen Burrows at 360-676-6736 x 22 or cburrows@wsu.edu.

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British Columbia

- [Click here](#) for the SWD Ministry of Agriculture site.
- [Click here](#) for the June 4th report for coastal B.C. Traps are just being set up this week.
- [Click here](#) for the B.C. Southern Interior Valleys report for the week of June 1-7: 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)

Additional, Ongoing Pest Management and IPM Information

Diseases

- [Phytophthora Root Rot](#) raspberries.
- [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

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](#) (6/9) *Weekly by Carolyn Teasdale, [ES Cropconsult](#). Sponsored by the BC Blueberry Council.*
- [New Jersey Blueberry Bulletin](#) (6/4) *Weekly by Gary Pavlis, Rutgers blueberry agent.*
- [Michigan State Extension news for Blueberries](#) (6/5)
- [The Source](#) (6/11) *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: 6/6—Zeal (etoxazole) Registered for use in caneberries** Reports on recent insect and disease research and observations in California.
- [Team Rubus](#) by Gina Fernandez, North Carolina State Small Fruit Specialist. **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: 6/6—SWD factsheets for Summer, 2012**

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Technology

- [Naturipe field cooling system improves shelf life](#) (6/11, The Packer)

Farm Bill

- [Nutrition advocates urge Congress to turn farm bill into 'healthier food bill'](#) (6/11, Food Navigator)
- [New farm bill has its share of complications](#) (6/10, NPR)

Labor

- [Labor concerns shadow expected record cherry crop](#) (6/6, The Packer)
- [Ample labor supply anticipated in New Mexico](#) (6/8, The Packer)

The West

- [Peerbolt Crop Management scouts for pests bugging Oregon farmers](#) (6/7, Oregonian)

National

- [Ohio researchers look to expand state's blueberry production](#) (6/7, The Grower)
- (Michigan) [Fruit processors get bad news from apple and cherry growers, good news about blueberries](#) (6/6, Mlive)
- [Michigan summer berries are off to a fast start: Harvest is early and quality is great!](#) (6/7, MSU Extension News)

Event Calendar

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

All crops

- Vole management.
- Weed management.
- 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

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

[06-06-12](#)

[05-29-12](#)

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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.
