

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 27, 2012

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Time Magazine Cover Story: [“Not Legal Not Leaving”](#) (6/25)

Related Time articles:

- [U.S. Government to Allow Unauthorized Immigrant ‘Dreamers’ to Remain in Country](#)
- Time Video: [Undocumented Americans: Inside the Immigration Debate](#)

[A mediocre Farm Bill](#) (6/24, *New York Times*)

[Raspberry fumigation: less is more?](#) (6/22, *Western Farm Press*)

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

Oregon and SW Washington SWD Alert

strawberries, caneberries, & blueberries

- [Click here](#) to go directly to the alert & the full SWD report below.
- [Click here](#) for the recently issued SWD alert from Oregon State posted on the Oregon Blueberry Commission website.

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, 6/25)

- **Blueberries:** I saw some Dukes starting to colour on Friday (6/22) so we're approaching the next phase of fruit development. Continued on and off weather is really constant pressure on fruit quality (I'm sounding like a broken record on this subject). June has been a tough month. Plant growth continues unabated with strong soil moisture. This growth is excessive in some fields and will cause problems with machining and SWD spraying in fields that won't dry out properly as the canopies close in.

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](#)

- **Raspberries:** Raspberries should start picking by machine week of July 2nd. Fresh Malahats have been picking all last week. Huge windstorm on Saturday (23rd) may have caused lateral damage in some areas. I know some there was fruit drop in the blues in the aftermath.

Northern Washington, Whatcom County (Tuesday, 6/26)

Rain all day last Thursday and a heck of a thunderstorm Saturday didn't help the strawberries and raspberries at all. There's a bit of mold in spite of all the fungicides.

- **Blueberries:** Blueberries are still showing virus/disease symptoms as leaf wilt There's also more green berry botrytis.
- **Raspberries:** Raspberry pre-harvest cleanup sprays are just beginning. Watch for aphids in the raspberries and new plantings.
- **Strawberries:** Strawberry picking has now started.

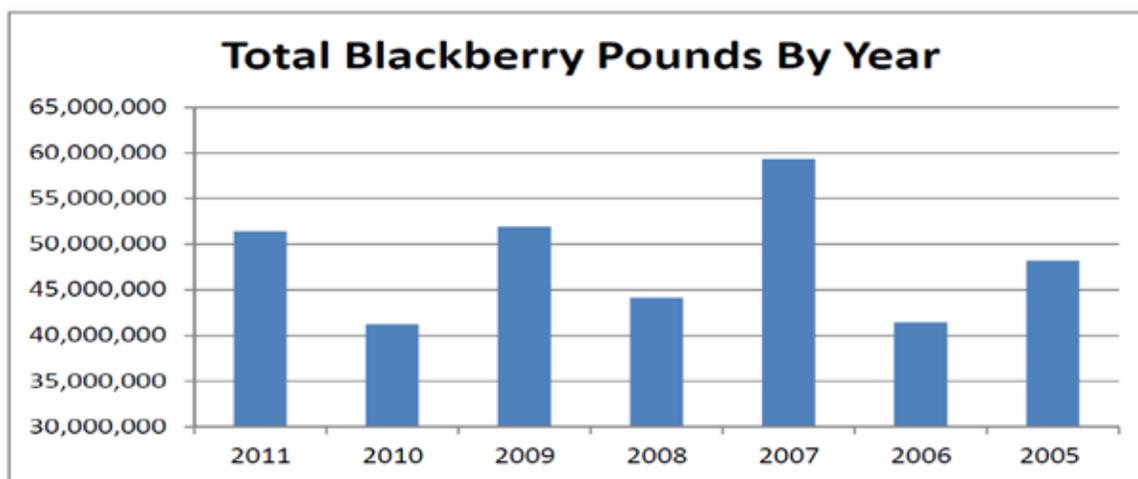
Northern Washington, Skagit County (Tuesday, 6/26)

Spraying fungicide in blues, blacks and apples before the next rain event comes in later this week.

- **Blueberries:** Lots of botrytis in the blues both conventional and organic with good shoot growth in most varieties. Tipping in Liberty finishing up. Very tough season for mummyberry in organics with all the rain despite heavy fungicide use on tight intervals. Liberty and Reka particularly susceptible.
- **Raspberries:** Pollination in raspberries was spotty.
- **Strawberries:** Starting to pick strawberries for cannery today. Very wet fields and fruit quality has suffered. Hope it does not swing to hot weather quickly as fruit will melt. Fruit under high tunnels has remained solid on the fresh side. Lots of botrytis in the blues both conventional and organic with good shoot growth in most varieties. Tipping in Liberty finishing up. Very tough season for mummyberry in organics with all the rain despite heavy fungicide use on tight intervals. Liberty and Reka particularly susceptible.

Willamette Valley, Oregon and SW Washington

Blackberries, processed (Thursday, 6/21): (I reworded last week's blackberry crop report as it came from the fieldman thinking I was clarifying the meaning & ended up doing just the opposite. My apologies. TP) I was not clear on my explanation of what I was missing on yield potential last week. What I meant to say is for the last seven years every even year, 2010, 2008, 2006, the blackberry crop has been down on yield. Every odd year, 2011, 2009, 2007, 2005, the blackberry crop has been up on yield. This being an even year, 2012, yields should be down. This could be the year that breaks the trend. The chart below illustrates my point.



- **Blackberries, processed** (Tuesday, 6/26): This cooler weather slowed things down some, Marionberries should start in about two weeks. I think we need some warm weather to get some size, seems like they are ripening without getting any bigger. There are still people hand harvesting blacks, labor is a huge concern, especially after watching the strawberry guys struggle. Evergreens are at or near full bloom, look really good so far.



Marion blackberries on June 25, 2012 Photos by Bill Dinger



Boysenberries on June 25, 2012



Evergreen blackberries on June 25, 2012

- **Blueberries** (Tuesday, 6/26): Some Earliblues are being harvested today in the mid Willamette valley for fresh market. The earliest mid valley Duke fields are also very close to starting—maybe tomorrow. Down in the southern valley Dukes have started. This coming week will see us get into full swing. Labor continues as a concern. With the cooler weather at least the fruit will hold in the field well as long as we don't get too wet. Time to get the crop in.
- **Strawberries** (Tuesday, 6/26) Another disappointing season for many processed strawberry growers. The season will pretty much wrap up this week with most of the not-enough-labor force moving on to the blueberries, raspberries and blackberries. Quite a bit of harvestable fruit is being left in fields. There's still enough of a demand to keep some fields going in but not enough potential to expand acreage. The labor issue is kind of the final straw—adding even more risk and uncertainty to the picture.

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Classified

Classifieds are included occasionally in the SFU for any service/equipment sale, etc. that would be useful for NW berry growers. We don't charge for them but then they aren't run very often. If you've got a service or something for sale related to the Northwest berry industry that you'd like to advertise, send information on to: tom@peerbolt.com. I'll let you know if it seems reasonable to be included. They're generally run for three straight weeks.

- **Falconry Bird Management Services in Northern Washington:** Best Defense Bird Abatement® is a local, family-owned service that blends modern falconry and neighbor-friendly deterrents modify pest bird behavior. We provide free on-site assessment, and together will build a contract that best suits your needs at reasonable rates. If you are interested in learning more about our services, please call the owner, Frank Lapsansky @ 360-961-2219. [Click here](#) for a flyer with more detailed information.

Pest Management Activities

As fruit colors, implement bird damage management activities: [Birds blueberries](#)

- [Bye Bye Birdie –Bird Management Strategies for Small Fruit](#) (Cornell) 13 page PDF reviewing options and a nice bird species specific guide to feeding and flying habits.

Scout for and determine if management actions are needed: **Root Weevil adults, all crops** [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!*

Scout for: [Mummyberry blueberries](#) [Mummyberry primer from MSU](#)

- Infected fruit is now becoming easy to distinguish from healthy fruit in some Oregon fields.
- The infected fruit colors earlier, shrivels, whitens and drops from the bushes easily when disturbed.
- Right now this fruit could be mistaken for green berry botrytis infected fruit.
- The inside of an infected berry will be filled with white fungal mycelium.

Scout for symptoms and send in sample as needed: [Scorch virus](#) **British Columbia blueberries**

- [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.

This week--Have Pheromone traps out for: [Strawberry Crown Moth](#) **southern strawberries**

SCM adult flight is now in progress in SW Washington and Oregon. We'll be treating fields right after harvest in about a week for SCM, SWD and Weevils. Correct insecticide timing is essential for SCM. The first application needs to be made 10 to 14 days after two or more adults are caught two days in a row, a second about 14 days later and, if adult flight continues, a third 14 days later.

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

Alternaria can infect the fruit beginning at the end of bloom and throughout the fruit development stage, up until harvest. ([Click here for expanded view of this disease.](#))

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

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.](#))

Scout for and evaluate if management action is needed: [Twospotted mites](#) **raspberries**

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Spotted Wing Drosophila Update for 6-26-12

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](#)

Oregon and SW Washington SWD Alert

Strawberries

- Strawberries are past peak harvest. We continue to recover drosophila larvae from sporadic field fruit samples with numbers increasing over last week.
- A big majority of fields tested showed no larvae in their samples.
- Growers are advised to monitor the fruit closely for SWD larval contamination and evaluate whether an insecticide application is needed.
- A post harvest insecticide application is advised if the field is adjacent to other berry or stone fruit crops to prevent the strawberry field from being a breeding site for SWD.

Raspberries

- Harvest is just beginning in SW Washington and Oregon. There's a lot of ripe and/or ripening fruit in all fields.
- We are picking up larvae in some of the fruit samples taken from this early fruit. Most samples remain free of SWD larvae.
- In raspberries with any SWD larvae in them, the fruit softens & falls apart much more visibly than in strawberries. Pay particular attention to berries that look like they're prematurely soft/over ripe.
- ***Unlike the previous two seasons when SWD larvae were not found in raspberries until late season, there's very strong evidence that even first picks this year could see SWD larval contaminants.***
- It is advised to monitor fruit quality closely and take appropriate actions to prevent crop losses.

SWD Risk Factors

It's becoming clearer which field characteristics increase the chances of having SWD infestations. This is still a work in progress but observations over the last three seasons indicate the following:

Increased Risk:

- Borders of field have wild blackberries, wild cherries or other favored overwintering habitat.
- Field is relatively small in size and is part of a mixed crop farm with other susceptible crops adjacent (Example: 1-3 acre plantings of strawberries, raspberries, blueberries with 5 acre cherry and peach orchards).
- Caneberries appear to be preferred over blueberries and strawberries.
- The later the harvest season the more the risk with late season caneberries the most susceptible.
- U Pick/ Fresh market fields that are difficult to treat with insecticides on a regular schedule.

Decreased Risk:

- Field is bordered by grass seed fields or other non host plantings.
- Field is relatively large and doesn't border other fields of SWD susceptible crops.
- Harvest season is earlier (Example: Duke is lower risk than Liberty in blueberries).
- In general, caneberries are higher risk than blueberries. But the late season blueberries are under a very high risk due to the higher insect populations.

SWD in the news

- (Oregon) [Uneven spring a mixed bag for Douglas County growers](#) (6/22, NR Today)

- [Spotted Wing Drosophila found in Connecticut](#) (FGN, 6/21)

Updated SWD Resource

- Joe DeFrancesco, OSU pesticide specialist, has updated the lists of SWD pesticide options for Oregon and Washington berry crops originally done in April of 2011.
 - For the updated blueberry list [click here](#).
 - For the strawberry list [click here](#).
 - For the caneberry list [click here](#).

Regional Monitoring (South to North)

Oregon Public Scouting Program count for the week ending on 6/22

(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):** none. **Black Raspberries (2):** 1 male/ 1 female. **Blueberries (7):** no males/1 female. **Other caneberries (4):** no males/ 3 females. **Cherries (2): 9 males/15 females.** **Grapes (2):** none. **Honeysuckle (1):** none. **Peaches (2): 1 males/11 females.** **Pear (1):** 1 male/3 females. **Plums (2):** none. **Raspberries (3):** none. **Strawberries (13):** no males/1 female. **Tayberries (1):** none. **Wild Habitat (19) 25 males/149 females.**
- **Benton County: Nectarines (1):** no males/1 female. **Peaches (2):** 1 male/no females. **Raspberries (1):** none. **Strawberries (1):** none.
- **Marion County: Blackberries (2):**1 male/2 females. **Blueberries (5):** none. **Strawberries (22):** none. **Raspberries (1):** none. **Cherries (3): 34 males/49 females.**
- **Clackamas County: Blackberries (2):**3 males/no females. **Blueberries (8):**1 male/no females. **Strawberries (2):** 3 males/ no females. **Raspberries (1):** 3 males/1 female. **Tayberries (2):** no males/1 female.
- **Yamhill County: Blackberries (4):**none. **Blueberries (1):**1 male/1 female. **Cherries (3):** 1 male/ 1 female. **Strawberries (9):** none.
- **Multnomah County: Blackberries (4): 3 males/8 females.** **Boysenberries(1):**none. **Raspberries (2):** none. **Strawberries (7):** 4 males/ 5 females. **Cherries (1):** no males/8 females. **Salmonberry (3):** 6 males/2 females.

Southwest Washington Public Scouting Program for the week ending on 6/22

- **Clark/Cowlitz/Lewis Counties: Blackberries (1):39 males/33 females.** **Raspberries (17): 12 males/22 females.** **Strawberries (9): 16 males/18 females.** **Cherries (4): 49 males/15 females.**

Eastern Washington

- [Click here](#) for the WSU Eastern Washington SWD reporting site.
- **Latest report from the this site--Monday, June 25: "SWD in the Chelan/Manson region. A trap sample collected on June 21st was found to contain a female SWD."**

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 the program's website. "A limited number of raspberry fields are now being scouted covering a diverse range of area in Whatcom, Skagit, and Pierce counties." For more information contact Colleen Burrows at 360-676-6736 x 22 or cburrows@wsu.edu.

Latest reports from this site:

- **June 12:** "1 female found in Bayview region of Skagit County."
- **June 8:** "23 female and 9 male SWD were found in Lynden region of Whatcom County."
- **June 7:** "1 female found in Sumas North region. 1 male and 3 females found in Sumas South region."
- **June 5:** "First female SWD was found in LaConner region of Skagit County. She was an overwintering female with shriveled eggs."

British Columbia

- [SWD Management in BC Berry Crops](#) (with insecticide options listed)
- [Click here](#) for the SWD Ministry of Agriculture site.
 - [Click here](#) for the June 22nd report for coastal B.C. From that report: “Only 2 SWD flies caught in traps in blueberry fields, and none in the raspberry fields in this project, however: 21 SWD flies caught in a separate project, including hedgerow and field edge traps (108 traps in total), and SWD flies are emerging from wild salmonberry collected June 6-8. “
- [Click here](#) for the B.C. Southern Interior Valleys report for the week of June 15-21.

Guidelines for checking the fruit for SWD larvae

These suggestions are based on techniques that various public researchers and industry personnel have been developing over the past couple of years. If any of you have ideas for improvements to these protocols, please pass them along. We're all in this together.

Suggested methods:

For scouts/field checking ([We have created a video of this larvae-checking method.](#)):

1. Collect a sample of fruit to be tested (Strawberries: 25-30 per sample, Caneberries/blueberries: 75 per sample)
2. Put fruit in a gallon size sealable plastic bag.
3. Pour in enough of the salt water solution to allow the fruit to float (solution is: 1 cup of salt per gallon of water).
4. Mark bag with field code/date.
5. For a quick check in the field after a designated period of time (at least 15 minutes) holding the baggie up to light. This helps to see the larvae in the solution
6. For a more thorough examination, after a designated period of time (at least 15 minutes), pour the fruit and salt solution out into a shallow tray and use a piece of wire mesh screen to hold the fruit down making it easier to separate the larvae from the fruit.

For processors or fruit handling stations:

1. Collect a two pound sample of fruit to be tested.
2. Put the sample into a shallow tray and cover with the salt water solution (1 cup of salt per gallon of water).
3. After a designated period of time (at least 15 minutes) use a piece of wire mesh screen to hold the fruit down to make it easier to separate the larvae from the fruit.

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Industry News/Resources

Newsletters/ Berry Reports

- [BC Blueberry IPM Newsletter](#) (6/23) Weekly by Carolyn Teasdale, [ES Cropconsult](#). Sponsored by the BC Blueberry Council.
- [New Jersey Blueberry Bulletin](#) (6/18) Weekly by Gary Pavlis, Rutgers blueberry agent.
- [Michigan State Extension news for Blueberries](#) (6/26)
- [The Source](#) (6/25) 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: 6/14— Finding California Oakworm in Local Berry Fields** Reports on recent insect and disease research and observations in California.

- [Team Rubus](#) by Gina Fernandez, North Carolina State Small Fruit Specialist. **Recent entry: 6/25—Summer checklist is online 6/20—Natchez overcropping?** *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: 6/25—Spotted wing drosophila and larval sampling sheet.**

Breeding

- [Ohio researchers seek hardier blackberries](#) (6/21, The Grower)

Farm Bill

- [Associations speak out after farm bill passage](#) (6/22, Growing Produce)
- [Senate Farm Bill: The Good, The Bad and The Ugly](#) (Civil Eats Blog, 6/22)

Labor & Immigration

- [Blocking part of Arizona law, Supreme court justices allow its centerpiece](#) (6/25, New York Times)
- [Plenty of asparagus, few workers to pick it](#) (6/25, Seattle Times)

The West

- [UC unveils how-to book on organic strawberries](#) (6/21, Capital Press) [Click here](#) for the UC book link.
- (Oregon) [Blueberry growers upbeat as harvest approaches](#) (6/20, Capital Press)
- [Berry deal continues to sweeten for Northwest producers](#) (6/25, The Produce News)

National

- (Florida) [Berry growers battling birds](#) (6/20, Growing Produce)
- [Strawberry crop hit and miss across country](#) (6/18, Fresh Plaza)

International

- [Poland: Raspberry acreage on the increase](#) (6/26, Fresh Plaza)
- [Berry plantings in Peru total 822 hectares \(2,055 acres\)](#) (6/26, Fresh Plaza)
- (United Kingdom) [Blueberries off to slow start](#) (6/26, Fresh Fruit Portal)
- [Chile wins South Korean blueberry market access](#) (6/25, Fresh Fruit Portal)
- [Three new berry zones slated for Peru](#) (6/22, Fresh Fruit Portal)

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Event Calendar

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

- **July 11 — OSU Caneberry Open House**, starting at 1pm at the North Willamette Research and Extension Center in Aurora. [Click here for an agenda](#).
- **July 12 — OSU Blueberry Field Day**, from 1 to 5pm at the North Willamette Research and Extension Center in Aurora. [Click here for an agenda](#)
- **July 18 — Raspberry Machine Harvesting field day, Lynden WA.** 1-3 PM at Randy Honcoop's farm. Included in the two plantings to be harvested & evaluated are 190 WSU selections, 8 BC selections, 1 ORUS selection with Meeker, Willamette, and Rudi as standards. Growers and processors are encouraged to attend. Your input is essential in deciding which of these selections best meet your needs & have commercial potential. Any questions, contact Pat Moore 253-445-4525, moorepp@wsu.edu.
- **July 20 and 21 — Northwest Raspberry Festival, Lynden, WA.** [Click here](#) for the website.
- **July 20 and 21 — Oregon Berry Festival, Portland,** [Click here](#) for the Website. Sponsors and vendors are welcome!
- **August 3 and 4 — Mossyrock Blueberry Festival, Mossyrock, WA.** [Click here](#) for the website.
- **August 4 — Cloverdale Blueberry Festival, Cloverdale, B.C.** [Click here](#) for the website.
- **August 17 — Sutherlin Blackberry Festival, Sutherlin, OR.** [Click here](#) for the website.

Additional, Ongoing Pest Management and IPM Information

Diseases

- [Phytophthora Root Rot](#) raspberries.

- [Shock virus](#), Blueberries.
- [Blackberry Rust](#) (Phragmidium Rust) Evergreen blackberries

Insects/Mites

- **Scout for:** [Raspberry Beetle](#), northern raspberries.
- **Scout for:** [Yellow mites](#) Raspberries ([Click here for expanded view of this pest.](#))
- **Scout for:** [Winter Moth/Bruce Span Worm](#) blueberries.
- **Scout for:** [Clay Colored Weevils](#) northern raspberries and blueberries.
- **Scout for:** [Azalea Bark Scale](#), southern blueberries.
- **Scout for:** [Blueberry Gall Midge](#), blueberries.

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Crop Work

All crops

- ***As fruit starts coloring, monitor fruit for SWD infestation and treat as needed.***
- Vole management.
- Weed management.
- Can put out monitoring traps for adult Spotted wing drosophila.
- Monitor fruit for SWD larva.

Blueberries

Harvest beginning in south

- 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.
- Scout for Blueberry gall midge damage.
- 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

Harvest ongoing in south

- (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

Harvest ongoing

- 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](#).)

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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.
