

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.

October 3, 2012

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[Argentina Blueberries](#) A video produced last year by Blueberries S.A.

[Chunho Blueberries](#) (8/14, South Korea ad in English) Perfect eye sight through blueberries.

SWD Story: [New Pest in B.C. attacking berry crops](#) (9/26, Abbotsford News)

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

Anna and I will be on vacation from Monday, October 8th until Sunday, October 21st. The next Small Fruit Update will come out during the week of October 22nd.

Tom Peerbolt, SFU Editor

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, 10/1)

- Elliots continue to pick on a reduced scale now but some growers could get a fourth where size is not an issue. Continued good weather will be needed and seems to be forthcoming, amazingly. Starting to plant new blueberry fields up here in the last week. More to come throughout the month. But dry soil conditions are holding up pre-plant fumigation and planting a bit. Considerable number of raspberry fields coming out.

Northern Washington, Whatcom County (Monday, 10/1)

- Peacefully quiet up here, amazingly still waiting for some rain. Pruning raspberries, looks like a lot of scarring/disease on the new canes. Blues done, or should be. Strawberries in the subsoil mode.

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](#)

Northern Washington, Skagit County (Wednesday, 10/3)

- Just getting into the 3rd round on Elliots, finishing up on the Liberty that remain. We could use a few more people, many of our hourly guys are picking off and on. Frost alarms @ 3:30am this morning, very clear and cold. Never seen it so dry this time of year, even our water truck was blowing a dust cloud trying to wet down the headlands where we are picking. Still spraying SWD consistently in blacks and late blueberries. Still picking a few Albion strawberries for fresh market. Got cover crops in on fallow organic blocks around Sept 16th but germination is slow with no moisture.

Willamette Valley, Oregon (Tuesday, 10/2)

- **Blueberries:** There are still some Aurora and rabbiteye blueberries being picked, but things are wrapping up. Boy are things dry! Keep up on watering where needed. The dry weather is keeping the fall fruiting blackberries going also although ripening is slowing down. Albion strawberries are still looking (and tasting) pretty good.
- **Blackberries:** We will finish evergreen harvest this week. Yield, quality and price were all good. Weather was perfect. Let's do it again next year.

Research/Grant Information

- [USDA bolsters specialty crop investment](#) (10/3, Western Farm Press)
- **Production research granting sources: Requests for Proposals deadlines**
If your organization/commission has RFP information that needs distribution please let me know. (tom@peerbolt.com)
 - **November 12** — [Washington State Commission on Pesticide Registration](#). [Click here](#) for the website that has a lot of background information.
 - **November 14** — [Washington Red Raspberry Commission Request for Proposals](#). The RFP link also has the 2013 research priority list.
 - **December 1** — [Oregon Blueberry Commission](#) This link also has the 2013 research priority list as well as information on an pre-proposal meeting scheduled for October 18th at 10 AM in Corvallis.

Event Calendar

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

- **October 24** — **Washington Red Raspberry Commission** ~ in Lynden starting at 1pm. For more details, call (360) 354-8767 or [email](#) Henry Bierlink.
- **November 7** — **Oregon Strawberry Commission** ~ Noon at Landon Farms. For more details call (541) 758- 4043 or [email](#) Philip Gutt.
- **November 13** — **Oregon Blueberry Commission** ~ Noon at [Chemeteka Community College](#), Chemeketa Events at Winema, building 48, rooms 202 A&B. For more details call (503) 364-2944 or email [Lisa Ostlund](#).
- **November 29-30** — **Northwest Center for Small Fruits Research Annual Conference** ~ Kennewick, WA, [Click here](#) for the conference web page.
- **December 6** — **Washington Red Raspberry Commission** ~ in Lynden. For more details, call (360) 354-8767 or [email](#) Henry Bierlink.
- **December 6-7** — **Washington Small Fruit Conference** ~ in Lynden. Information at www.lyndenagshow.com/
- **December 10-12** — **2012 Far West Agribusiness Winter Conference** ~ Pasco, WA, [Click here](#) for the conference web page.

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Crop Management Information

- [New Brown Marmorated Stink Bug Factsheet](#) available from WSU. *Great Identification guide to this new potential pest threat.*
- Brown Marmorated Stink Bug: [Folks asked to be on the lookout for Asian invader to B.C.](#) (10/2, The Province)
- [Glyphosate resistance spreading](#) (9/28, The Western Producer)

SWD News

- (Maine wild blueberries) [Invasive fruit fly worries Maine farmers](#) (9/26, Capital Press)

Industry News/Resources

Newsletters/ Berry Reports

- [BC Blueberry IPM Newsletter](#) (9/28) Weekly by Carolyn Teasdale, [ES Cropconsult](#). Sponsored by the BC Blueberry Council.
- [Michigan State Extension news for Blueberries](#) (9/26)
- [Imperial Frozen Foods Newsletter](#) (10/3) Peter Skolnick's comments on the cold storage reports and present market conditions.
- [The Source](#) (10/1) 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. **Recent entry: 9/9—Leaf yellowing and senescence in raspberry 2012** Reports on recent insect and disease research and observations in California.
- [Team Rubus](#) by Gina Fernandez, North Carolina State Small Fruit Specialist. **Recent entry: 9/27—'Osage' a new blackberry for the Univ. of Arkansas** 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: 9/30: SWD detections increase.**

Labor

- [Washington minimum wage will rise to \\$9.19 per hour](#) (9/28, Capital Press)
- [Electronic filing for H-2A program being implemented](#) (9/26, US Dept. of Labor)
- [Child farm labor in Oregon and the U.S.: big dangers, little change](#) (9/29, Oregonian)

Technology

- [Up-and-Coming precision ag trend: Sensors](#) (9/17, PrecisionAg)

Research/Breeding

- [Scientist still puzzling over Colony Collapse Disorder causes](#) (9/30, Fruit Grower News)
- [Breeders break loose with new blackberry, table grape varieties](#) (10/2, Western Farm Press)

Farm/Food Politics

- [The farm bill expires this week. Does it matter?](#) (9/26, Governing.com)
- [FDA says it can't afford new food safety law](#) (10/2, Columbus Dispatch)

West

- (California) [Raspberries' waning weeks in Watsonville](#) (9/20, The Packer)

North America

- [Deflation in fruits and vegetables moderates retail food prices](#) (9/25, The Packer)
- [Consumers in the East want local berries](#) (9/28, Fruit Growers News)

International

- [South African blueberry volumes set to rise by 30%](#) (10/1, Fresh Fruit Portal)
- [Stronger start for 2012-13 Argentine blueberry season](#) (9/28, Fresh Fruit Portal)
- [Argentine blueberries take off for Miami](#) (10/2, Fresh Fruit Portal)
- (Argentina) [Blueberries for export](#) (10/3, Fresh Plaza)
- (Australia) [As strawberry season ends, are robots on the horizon?](#) (10/1, ABC Rural)

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Crop Work/Pest Management Activities

All crops

- Pay attention to new plantings of all berries for weeds, water, insects, diseases, and nutrient deficiencies.
- Weed management.
- Can still take soil and leaf tests for evaluation of nutrients.
 - [OSU's Blueberry Nutrient \(and testing\) Guidelines](#)
 - [OSU's Caneberry Nutrient \(and testing\) Guidelines](#).
- Apply lime, dolomite, gypsum and/or fall fertilizer.
- Scout for vole damage.

Blueberries

Post harvest

- Prune out canker-killed branches and remove them from the field.
- Can apply copper or Bordeaux for bacterial canker prevention (*Before rains come*)
- Scout for weevils and weevil notching.

Raspberries

Post harvest

- Scout for [Yellow Rust](#) and assess treatment options.
- Scout for [Two-spotted Mites](#) and treat as needed.
- Can take out floricanes and tie up primocanes.
- Can subsoil and till after harvest. The soil fractures much better when its dry so it's best to do this before the fall rains start.

Blackberries

Post harvest

- Can cut out old floricanes and tie up primocanes.
- Scout and mark problem weed areas that could be treated in the winter.
- Can subsoil and till after harvest. The soil fractures much better when it is dry so it's best to do this before the fall rains start.
- Can apply Ridomil for root rot control. (*Wait for fall rains to get it into the root zone*)
- Can apply copper or Bordeaux after tying up canes.
- Can drench for borer control. (*Wait for fall rains to get it into the root zone*)

Strawberries

Post harvest

- Scout weak areas for root weevil larvae, strawberry crown moth, root disease or soil problems.
- Scout for weevil notching on leaves.
- Can apply drench for weevil larvae management. (*Wait for fall rains to get it into the root zone*)

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Archived Small Fruit Updates

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

[09-20-12](#)

[09-06-12](#)

[08-29-12](#)

This document is a guide and not intended as a recommendation or endorsement.
Consult with your supplier, field representative, or pest consultant.