

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.

April 17, 2013

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A few items of note this week:

- **The New US Processed Raspberry Council:**
Congratulations to those within the industry who are finally seeing the fruits of their years of labor! This organization has the potential to invest much needed resources into the marketing and research of processed raspberries. More on this over the next few weeks. Read the article above to see the individuals appointed to the new USRRC. This is the raspberry equivalent of the US Highbush Blueberry Council that has been so instrumental in the blueberry success story.
- **SWD:** *I'll put together a full report next week but the bottom line right now is that there is a significant overwintering population showing up in the monitoring traps. Our mild winter, relatively warmer spring and initial monitoring information all indicate the potential for higher & earlier SWD pressure in the Northwest this year.*
- **New: Monthly Willamette Valley Berry Fieldman/Grower meeting:** *April 25th 7:30 to 9:00 am at the Langdon Farms Golf Club Restaurant. Bernadine Strik will be joining us to discuss berry crop nutrition. Coffee, juice & bagels for all. This is an ongoing meeting being scheduled for the fourth Thursday of each month.*

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](#)

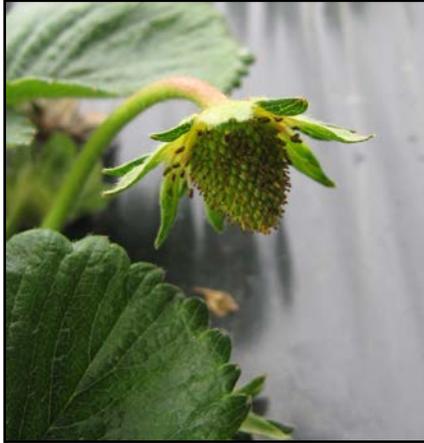
Tom Peerbolt, SFU Editor

Regional Crop Information

Willamette Valley, Oregon berry development



Black Diamond blackberry (4-15-13)



Most advanced Albion fruit (4-12-13)



Most advanced Hood blossoms (4-12-13)

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, 4/15)

Pretty wet, cold conditions 5-6C (43F) the last 3 or 4 days have slowed things up a bit.

- **Blueberries:** Some bloom showing up (20%) on Weymouth, June and a bit on Northland but bee activity is zero. I think we're still ahead of last season by 7-10 days but we may lose that advantage if the cold persists. A lot of fertilization on and what should be our last mummyberry sprays are going on now before major bloom sets in.
- **Raspberries:** Raspberries continue to develop with little apparent winter bud damage as laterals expand. Leaf colour really went yellow with the temperature drop at the end of the week. Clay coloured weevil damage is a little more evident. But it sure appears lighter to me than in the past. I know they are there. I'm just waiting for the hammer to come down.

Whatcom County, Northern Washington (Friday, 4/12)

Wow, 43 degrees in Whatcom county April 12 for our high.

- **Blueberries:** Ready for pre-bloom cleanup in the blues as soon as the rain stops. Most varieties are at or near early pink bud. Lots of rodents. (*Addition, sent 4/15*): Several reports of early symptoms of shock virus up here, they usually begin to bloom first but not this year.
- **Raspberries:** Raspberries pushing slowly, no clay weevil, yet. 1st year fields greening up pretty nicely. Still a few acres left to plant.
- **Strawberries:** Strawberries greening up now too, rodent feeding easy to spot in the brown areas.

Skagit County, Northern Washington (Monday, 4/15)

- **Raspberries:** No bloom in raspberries, but some flower buds are evident.
- **Blueberries:**
 - WSU-Mt Vernon fields are looking good, but moving very slowly, just like everything else up here.
 - Blueberry bloom seems to have progressed very little in the past week. Duke is 1-5%, as are Bluecrop and Earliblue. Reka hasn't even started, but has many buds very close to opening. Bluejay is at about 10% bloom, O'Neal is chugging along at 30% bloom. I haven't seen shock symptoms here yet.
 - Budbreak continues to be even on both crops; no evidence of cold damage yet.
 - Our rodent problem in the blueberries is so bad you can see it from 100 yards off: There is a northern harrier happily cruising the plots, looking for tasty voles. I hope he enjoys his lunch!

Willamette Valley, Oregon and SW Washington

At Salem airport we're 8.70 inches behind normal rainfall from January 1 and 2.83 inches behind from October 1. Degree days at Salem airport show 7 days ahead of 2012 and 10 days ahead of 2011.

- **Strawberries:** (Monday, 4/15) Some of the weaker fields of Totem are past 10% bloom in SW Washington. Most June bearers have at least some bloom showing. Probably losing a few blooms in the colder spots to frost. 10% bloom sprays due to get going very soon. Some nice looking, green growth in most fields with the warmer soils than we've had the last couple of seasons. Seeing a lot less of the reddish leaf phosphorus deficiency symptom caused by cold soils.
- **Blueberries:** (Tuesday, 4/16) A lot of blooming going on. Still getting some temps down around freezing last night and probably for a few more nights so wind machines and sprinklers are being used. Hives in place although the bee would sure be flying more if we could warm up a little. Mummyberry applications, first bloom sprays, fertilizer all going on. Some guys are getting their first estimates at how much shock virus is going to be taking out of their yields as symptoms are pretty obvious.

Blueberry bud development—Western Willamette Valley

4-5-13 (Bottom)

4-12-13 (Top)

Patriot
Full bloom

Duke
5-20% bloom

Draper
1-5% bloom

Liberty
Late pink bud

Elliott
Late pink bud



- **Blackberries:** (Monday, 4/15) Despite the cooler temperatures still think there will be a bloom or two in Black Diamonds by the end of the week and Marionberries by the end of next week. Puts us about 10 days ahead of bloom last year. Time to do some cane burning in Marions, get your Fosphite or similar material on mildew susceptible varieties (Boysen, Kotata), prepare for bloom sprays.



Black Diamond 4-15-13



Marionberry 4-15-13

All photos by Bill Dinger



Marionberry 4-16-12



Marionberry 4-15-13

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Spring Weather Risks

Pictorial blueberry growth stages with temperature damage thresholds

- [Blueberry growth stages and critical spring temperatures](#) (Michigan State Extension)
- The relevant stages & temperature thresholds from the chart:
 - **Early pink bud:** "Expanding flowers are readily visible and have separated. The pink corolla tubes (petals) are short and closed. This bud stage can tolerate 23 to 25°F (-5 to -4°C)."
 - **Late pink bud:** "Individual flowers fully developed. Expanded corollas are now white but still closed. This bud stage can tolerate 24 to 27°F (-4.4 to -2.8°C)."
 - **Full bloom:** "Most of the flowers on the bush have opened. The bloom stages can tolerate 28°F (-2.2°C)."

- **Petal Fall:** “The corolla tubes are falling off the flowers, revealing small green fruit. This is the most vulnerable stage to freeze injury. Damage can occur at 32°F (0°C).”

Early Spring Weather Management Information

- [Using your sprinkler system to protect blueberries from freezes](#) (Eric Hansen, Michigan State Small Fruit Specialist)
- (All berries) [Frost protection: Tips & Techniques](#) (Kathy Demchek, Penn State)

Nutrient Management

- [Successful nutrient management begins with soil sampling](#) (4/11, Michigan State Extension)
- [Click here](#) For OSU’s “Nutrient Management in Blueberries” (16 page pdf).
- [Click here](#) for OSU’s “Nutrient Management Guide—Caneberries” (8 page pdf).

Pest Management

- [Analyzing the rise in invasive pests](#) (4/2, Growing Produce)
- [EPA approves new fungicide from FMC](#) (4/3, Growing Produce)

Disease Alerts

Vector management: [Scorch virus](#) – Areas with confirmed scorch virus present.

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. Check with your berry management specialists, both public and private, for more specific recommendations and selection of appropriate management materials.
- You can also email the B.C. Blueberry Council’s research coordinator, [Karina Sakalauskas](#) (or call her at (604) 613-2133) for information.

Time to scout for: [Shock virus](#) – southern blueberries.

- Symptoms are becoming visible in many fields in the southern areas.
- 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)

Time to treat for: [Mummyberry](#) blueberries Time to be in prevention mode! In fields with a history of mummyberry now's the time to be implementing your management program and keep it going as consistently as possible all the way through the end of bloom. We're still in the initial infection stage for this disease.

Time to treat for: [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. A distinctive red leaf pattern is also diagnostic of the disease. Phosphite applications in the spring are recommended to prevent outbreaks.

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Ongoing Pest Information

- **Scout for: [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.*
- **Scout for: Root Weevils, strawberries.** Larvae of [Black Vine](#), [Rough Strawberry](#), [Strawberry Root Weevils](#) are now being recovered from some strawberry fields.
- **Scout for: [Blueberry Gall Midge](#), southern blueberries.** *Tip damage from this midge is due to begin showing up in southern blueberries. Damage is usually deemed to not be economic except in specific situations like new vigorous fields where gall midge can occasionally cause too much stunting of new growth.*
- **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**
- **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.*
- **Time to treat for: [Redberry Mite](#) evergreen blackberries:** *Delayed dormant sprays of lime/sulfur or elemental sulfur for Blackberry Rust and Redberry Mite are recommended ASAP.*

Crop Work

All crops

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

Blueberries

- Bring in bees around 10% bloom.
- Plan for bloom applications to prevent fruit molds.
- Treat for [Mummyberry](#) as needed. (See Alert at top of newsletter) *You can scout for sprouting mummyberries on the ground but they can be very difficult to find. Base treatments on plant stage, environmental conditions and the past history of the field and surrounding fields.*
- Scout for [Pseudomonas \(Bacterial Blight\)](#) *Water-soaked lesions in some fields that then develop into reddish brown to black cankers.*
- Scout for [leafroller larvae](#) feeding.
- Scout for [Shock virus](#) symptoms in southern area fields.
- Plan for pre-bloom [aphid](#) control where [scorch virus](#) transmission is an issue.
- Scout for [winter moth/Bruce spanworm](#) larvae.

Blackberries

- Scout for [Purple Blotch](#) lesions in Marion berries to assess field disease levels for later treatments.
- Can apply lime sulfur for [Redberry Mites](#) and/or disease management.
- Cane burn 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.
- Scout for cane botrytis lesions.
- (northern areas) Scout for [Clay Colored Weevil](#) feeding and treat as needed.
- Scout for [twospotted mites](#).
- Can still apply Ridomil for [Phytophthora root rot](#) management.
- Can still drench for [crown borer](#) management.
- Scout for mites.

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 and manage root rot.

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Industry News/Resources

Newsletters/ Berry Reports

- [BC Blueberry IPM Newsletter](#) (4/12) Weekly by Carolyn Teasdale, [ES Cropconsult](#). Sponsored by the BC Blueberry Council.
- [Michigan State Extension Blueberry News](#) (4/15)
- [The Source](#) (4/15) Market reports from The Produce News
- [National Berry Report](#) Daily fresh market berry reports. Hosted by the California Strawberry Commission, this report is generated from data from the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service and is updated daily.

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](#) by Mark Bolda, UC Davis Berry Extension Agent. **Recent entry: 4/4—Understanding spray adjuvants.** Reports on recent insect and disease research and observations in California.
- [Team Rubus](#) by Gina Fernandez, North Carolina State Small Fruit Specialist. **Recent entry: 4/10—Raspberry and blackberry industry expanding in North Carolina** 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: 3/27—Plan to monitor insect pests in 2013** Reports on insect issues in the Southeast.

Breeding

- [Fall Creek releases six new blueberry varieties](#) (4/11, Fresh Fruit Portal)

Marketing

- [Highbush Blueberry Council starts foodservice blog](#) (4/9, The Packer)

Food Politics/GMO's

- Editorial: [The world needs genetically modified foods](#) (4/14, The Wall Street Journal)

Food Safety

- [Groups ask for more time for food safety comments](#) (4/11, The Packer)

Labor & Immigration

- [Officials reach agreement on immigration reform](#) (4/12, The Packer)
- [Business, labor reach foreign workers visa deal](#) (4/12, Politico)
- [Speedy path toward citizenship proposed](#) (4/16, Toledo Blade)

West

- Oregon: [Oregon senate passes resolution to curb 'hot goods' orders on crops](#) (4/2, Capital Press)
- California: [Strawberry industry works to move beyond pesticides](#) (4/11, Fresh Plaza)
- California: [Plan to reduce fumigant use on strawberry fields released](#) (4/11, Growing Produce)

North America

- Florida: [Florida blueberry volumes pick up](#) (4/10, Fresh Plaza)
- Florida: [Florida strawberry growers have a tough season](#) (4/16, Fresh Plaza)
- Southeast: [Cold weather slows blueberry deals](#) (4/10, The Packer)

International

- [Chilean imports enjoying smooth movement with blueberry increases this year](#) (4/16, Produce News)
- Peru: [Sunnyridge blueberry varieties now available in Peru](#) (4/16, Fresh Fruit Plaza)
- Ukraine: [Berries of Ukraine—2013 to attract record high number of growers](#) (4/15, Fruit-inform)

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Food Safety Events

Oregon Food Safety Training Offered

by the Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry, Blueberry, and Strawberry commissions

- [Click here](#) for the website with registration and detailed information.
- Class is free of charge but RSVP is required.
- **Dates & locations:**
 - **April 18** Woodburn Fertilizer – 868 N Front Street, Woodburn
 - **April 23** Scenic Fruit Co. – 7510 SE Altman Rd., Gresham
 - **May 2** Riverbend Organic Farm – 35711 Helms Dr., Jefferson
 - **May 7** Willamette Valley Fruit Co. – 2994 82nd Ave NE, Salem
 - **May 16** HBF International – 310 NE Kirby St, McMinnville
 - **May 21** Western Star Grange Hall #309 – 30423 Tangent Dr., Albany

FDA Informational Workshops on the Proposed FSMA Rules

The Food Safety Modernization Act will significantly impact growers, packers and processors in the coming years. Members of the food industry have the opportunity to submit comments to FDA on the proposed rules that will be used to regulate the food industry in the coming years. There is a need to be familiar with the proposed rules in order to submit relevant comments to FDA by the May 16, 2013 deadline. A multi-state team involving universities and regulatory agencies in partnership with FDA is offering five opportunities to review the proposed rules. FDA will be presenting information and offering input throughout the workshop.”

- [Click here](#) for the flyer with more details on the meetings.
- Cost is \$20 with a registration cutoff date of 4 days prior to the meeting date.
- **Remaining dates & locations:**
 - **April 17** Unitarian Universalist Church, Eugene, OR
 - **April 19** Four Rivers Cultural Center, Ontario, OR

Event Calendar

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

- **April 22-23 — International Blueberry Organization's 2nd Annual Meeting** ~ Santiago, Chile. [Click here](#) for the website with the agenda and registration information.
- **New Posting: April 25 — Willamette Valley Berry Fieldman/Grower Breakfast** ~ 7:30 to 9:00 am, [Langdon Farms Golf Club](#), 24377 NE Airport Road, Aurora, OR. Call 503-289-7287 or [email](#) for more information. Bernadine Strik will be joining us to discuss berry crop nutrition. Coffee, juice & bagels for all. This is being scheduled for the fourth Thursday the month.
- **April 30 — Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission** ~ 6 pm [Langdon Farms Golf Club](#). Call 541-758-4043 or [email](#) Phillip Gutt for more information.
- **May 6 — Oregon Blueberry Commission** ~ Noon at [Chemeteka Community College](#), Chemeteka Events at Winema, building 48, room 210. For more details call (503) 364-2944 or email [Lisa Ostlund](#).
- **New Posting: May 23 — Willamette Valley Berry Fieldman/Grower Breakfast** ~ 7:30 to 9:00 am, [Langdon Farms Golf Club](#), 24377 NE Airport Road, Aurora, OR. Call 503-289-7287 or [email](#) for more information.
- **June 5 — OSU Strawberry Open House** ~ 1-4:30 pm, North Willamette Research & Extension Station, Aurora Details TBA
- **June 18-20 — Berry Health Benefits Symposium** ~ Charlotte, North Carolina. [Click here](#) for registration and agenda information.
- **New Posting: June 27 — Willamette Valley Berry Fieldman/Grower Breakfast** ~ 7:30 to 9:00 am, [Langdon Farms Golf Club](#), 24377 NE Airport Road, Aurora, OR. Call 503-289-7287 or [email](#) for more information.
- **July 10 — OSU Caneberry Open House** ~ 1-5 pm, [North Willamette Research & Extension Station](#), Aurora Details TBA
- **July 12-13 — Oregon Berry Festival** ~ Portland, Sponsored by the Oregon berry commissions as well as many Oregon berry farms and berry related businesses. [Click here](#) for the website with a schedule of events and more details.
- **July 17 — OSU Blueberry Field Day** ~ 1-5 pm, [North Willamette Research & Extension Station](#), Aurora Details TBA
- **New Posting: July 25 — Willamette Valley Berry Fieldman/Grower Breakfast** ~ 7:30 to 9:00 am, [Langdon Farms Golf Club](#), 24377 NE Airport Road, Aurora, OR. Call 503-289-7287 or [email](#) for more information.
- **July 19 - 20 — Northwest Raspberry Festival** ~ Lynden, Sponsored by the Lynden Chamber of Commerce. [Click here](#) for the website with a schedule of events and more details.

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Archived Small Fruit Updates

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

[SFU04-09-13](#) [SFU04-02-13](#) [SFU03-26-13](#)

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