

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.

January 21, 2014

Week 4

Table of Contents

- [Assessing cold damage](#)
- [Pest management](#)
- [Classifieds](#)
- [Upcoming workshops](#)
- [Grower resources](#)
- [Industry news/resources](#)
- [Event calendar](#)

[Judge rules Feds were wrong to strong-arm Oregon blueberry farmers](#) (*Oregonian*, 1/16)

[BirdXPeller remote controlled drone](#)

(*Company website*) Something Anna came across on the web.
Drones for bird management.

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

Seems like it'll go on like this forever...

Blueberries & blackcaps in the Willamette Valley 1/17/14



**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](#)

Assessing Cold Damage

Growers are beginning to check plants for cold damage from the early December arctic event that brought below zero (-18 Celsius) temperatures to parts of the Willamette Valley. In addition to Marionberry blackberries that are known for cold sensitivity, blueberries with Southern Highbush heritage (mainly Legacy) and Rabbiteye varieties that have been planted more widely in the valley are also showing varying degrees of bud damage.

Obviously there's no way to correlate any of this with potential yield loss. There are just too many variables from field to field. Also, these specific cultivars are a minor percentage of the overall blueberry crop in this region and even then many fields checked, are showing minimal if any damage symptoms.

A simple method for assessing cold damage

- Put cane/branch sections in a Ziploc bag and store at room temperature for 4-5 days.
- Then cut and check for injury symptoms.
- Usually after 4-5 days, the dead tissue, whether buds or vascular tissue, will have oxidized & turned brown.

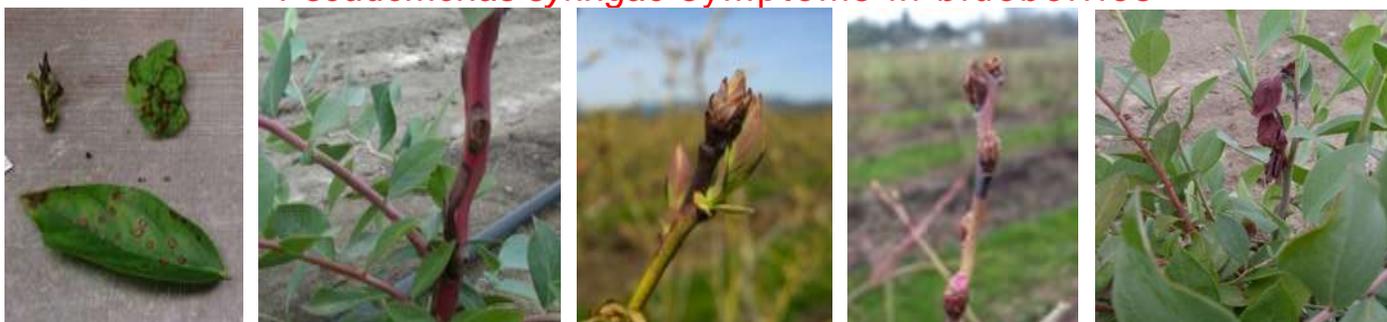
Assessing cold damage in caneberries

- [Click here](#) for photos and suggested assessment techniques from Michele Warmund, Horticulture professor at the University of Missouri and Dr. Bernadine Strik, Horticulture professor and berry extension specialist at Oregon State University.

Pest Management

Pseudomonas syringae (Bacterial Blight), blueberries. [Click here](#) for a PCM Research Update on bacterial blight first posted on 1/3/13.

Pseudomonas syringae symptoms in blueberries



Photos are from Joyce Loper's & Virginia Stockwell's power point presentation of their work on this disease

- Late January and February can bring warm spells along that can cause blueberry buds to start swelling.
- These swelling buds are vulnerable to infection by the ever present bacteria, *Pseudomonas syringae*, especially during warm, wet weather.
- Once infected, those buds are vulnerable to subsequent freeze damage at a higher temperature than buds that aren't infected.
- If warm, wet weather is predicted, applications of copper can help prevent *Pseudomonas* infections
- **Caution:** Many strains of this bacteria are resistant to copper compounds. Avoid over applying to help minimize resistance.

Starling management: Right now starlings are getting ready to fledge. Population control becomes very difficult later into the season because they multiply rapidly. This is a major pest species that needs year round management attention.

- [Click here](#) for a starling fact sheet.
- [Click here](#) for a starling nesting fact sheet.
- [Click here](#) for the Okanagan (B.C.) grape grower starling trapping 2010 program synopsis. This was a well documented and well run starling management plan.

[Click here](#) to go back to the top of this newsletter.

Classifieds

Peerbolt Crop Management Field Services for 2014

We're in the process of planning our field season and beginning scout hiring. Anyone who might be interested in contracting for field services this coming season and didn't work with us in 2013, please contact us soon. Once the scouts are hired and trained our ability to add new field work is limited.

Field services offered:

- **Scouting/monitoring for Spotted Wing Drosophila:** Field monitoring specifically for SWD with weekly email reports on field specific and regional SWD status.
- **Field scouting/monitoring:** Weekly or every other week field monitoring for pests and diseases. Field specific reports with recommendations are emailed and saved online for quick and easy grower access.
- **Certified third party monitoring for blueberry export to Korea:** These pest monitoring protocols require third party pest consultant certification.
- **Custom services:** We can talk with you about adapting our scouting and online reporting resources to meet whatever your specific field management needs might be.

Please call 503-289-7287 or [email](#) for more information or [click here](#) to go to our business website.



Upcoming Workshops with Grower Sessions

- **January 27 — 2014 Blueberry Conference** ~ 9am-8pm (with dinner). Organized by the Oregon Blueberry Commission and Oregon State University. At the Embassy Suites (near airport), 7900 NE 82nd Ave, Portland. [Click here](#) for the agenda and [registration](#).
- **January 29—Oregon Hort Society's Caneberry Seminar** ~ 8-noon. at the Portland Expo Center. 2060 N. Marine Drive, Portland. 3 Oregon pesticide credits. [Click here](#) for the agenda and contact information.
- **Free but space limited so please RSVP: January 29—Oregon Strawberry Commission Workshop "The potential market for fresh strawberries,"** 1-5pm, at the Portland Expo Center, 2060 N. Marine Drive, Portland. Admission is free. [Click here](#) for the agenda and contact information.
- **January 30 - February 1, 2014 —Pacific Agriculture Show and Horticulture Growers Short Course** ~ at the Tradex Exhibition Centre (Abbotsford Airport) in Abbotsford, BC. [Click here](#) for the main website. You can view the program on-line ([click here](#)) and register here ([click here](#)).
- **Free but space limited so please RSVP: February 26 — ORBC & industry sponsored Production Raspberry & Blackberry Workshop** ~ 8:30-3:30, Wellspring Conference Center, Woodburn. Attendance is free but you need to RSVP since space and lunch are limited. [Click here](#) for the draft agenda. Contact Peerbolt Crop Management by [email](#) or phone 503-289-7287 to RSVP.

Grower Resources

- [Next generation pest maps track life cycles](#) (1/13, Capital Press)

Industry news/resources

Newsletters/ Berry reports

- [Rural Migration News](#) (January, 2014, 1st quarter edition) *Migration News summarizes and analyzes the most important immigration and integration developments of the preceding quarter.*
- [Whatcom Ag Monthly](#) *Produced by WSU Whatcom County Extension. Includes excellent berry crop information.*
- [The Source](#) (1/13) *Marketing report 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/website compilations

- **The Packer:** [blueberries](#), [blackberries](#), [raspberries](#), [strawberries](#).
Recent stories and fresh market pricing for the various berries from The Packer.
- **Growing Produce:** [recent berry articles](#).
- **Fresh Fruit Portal:** [blueberries](#), [blackberries](#), [raspberries](#), [strawberries](#).
Recent stories for the various berries from Fresh Fruit Portal.

Berry research blogs

- [Strawberries and Caneberries](#) by Mark Bolda, UC Davis Berry Extension Agent. **Recent entry: 1/13— Announcing a meeting on January 30 on strawberry mineral nutrition** *Reports on recent insect and disease research and observations in California.*
- [Team Rubus](#) by Gina Fernandez, North Carolina State Small Fruit Specialist. **Recent entry: 1/10— Blackberry buds checked look good at cold** *Reports on issues in blackberries and raspberries from the Southeast.*

Immigration/Ag Labor

- Washington: [State reports that the best farmworker pay was in Washington wheat fields](#) (1/16, Yakima Herald-Republic) *\$16.17/hr in 2012.*
- Washington: [Nassif keynotes labor conference](#) (1/13, Capital Press)

Water/Climate

- Oregon: [Water outlook less than normal](#) (1/19, Capital Press)
- California: [Governor declares drought emergency](#) (1/17, Ag Professional)
- California: [California will likely face severe water cutbacks](#) (1/13, Western Farm Press) *Western Farm Press is now requiring reader registration. I try to avoid these but I think this is one publication that's worth it.*
- California: [Meetings on California climate plan set](#) (1/14, Capital Press)

Pollination

- Europe: [Honeybee shortage threatens crop pollination in Europe](#) (1/10, Fresh Plaza)
- Washington: [More flowers help bees, expert says](#) (1/16, Capital Press)
- [Exposure to pesticides results in smaller worker bees](#) (1/20, The Global Fruit)

Politics & Ag

- [Washington governor calls for higher minimum wage](#) (1/14, Capital Press)

Business

- [Blueberry demand up sharply, survey finds](#) (1/17, The Packer)
- California: [Oppy starts California strawberries](#) (1/13, The Packer)
- California: [Organic produce business briefs](#) (1/14, The Packer)
- USDA: [Crop acreage shifting to larger farms](#) (1/18, Ag Professional)

West

- California: [Oxnard strawberry deal underway](#) (1/15, The Packer)
- California: [Strawberry plantings to decrease slightly in 2014](#) (1/14, Capital Press)

International

(FFP=Fresh Fruit Portal)

- Chile: [Blueberries get extra scrutiny at U.S. ports of entry](#) (1/20, The Global Fruit)
- Chile: [Police intervene in Chilean port strike](#) (1/15, The Packer)
- Chile: [Chilean blueberry export continues to be complicated](#) (1/17, Fresh Plaza)

[Click here](#) to go back to the top of this newsletter.



Event calendar

- **January 22 — Washington Red Raspberry Commission** ~ Board meeting in Lynden, WA. [Contact Henry Bierlink](#) for more information.
- **January 27 — 2014 Blueberry Conference** ~ organized by the Oregon Blueberry Commission and Oregon State University. At the Embassy Suites (near airport), 7900 NE 82nd Ave, Portland, OR, 9am-8pm. [Click here](#) for the agenda. [Click here](#) for the registration form. For more information contact Wei Yang, [by email](#).
- **January 28 - 30 — Northwest Ag Show** ~ at the Portland Expo Center. 2060 N. Marine Drive, Portland, OR 97217. [Click here](#), for more information.
- **January 29—Oregon Hort Society's Caneberry Seminar** ~ at the Portland Expo Center. 2060 N. Marine Drive, Portland, OR 97217. Details will be coming soon. For information, contact Tom Peerbolt (tom@peerbolt.com, 503-289-7287). For the agenda, [click here](#).
- **January 29 — Oregon Strawberry Commission Workshop "The potential market for fresh strawberries,"** 1-5pm, at the Portland Expo Center, 2060 N. Marine Drive, Portland, OR 97217. Admission is free. All experienced, new, and transition strawberry growers encouraged to attend. For the agenda, [click here](#). [Email Lora Liegel](#) at Peerbolt Crop Management with questions or call the office at 503-289-7287.
- **January 30 - February 1, 2014 —Pacific Agriculture Show and Horticulture Growers Short Course** ~ at the Tradex Exhibition Centre (Abbotsford Airport) in Abbotsford, BC. [Click here](#) for the main website. You can view the program on-line ([click here](#)) and register by ([clicking here](#)).
- **February 4 — Oregon Strawberry Commission** ~ Budget meeting begins at 2 pm at Langdon Farms Golf Club. Regular meeting at 3 pm. Call 541-758-4043 or [email Phillip Gutt](#) for more information.
- **February 11 — OSU eXtension Webinar on SWD** ~ Biologically based organic management strategies for Spotted Wing Drosophila. Sign up now for the webinar. [Click here](#) for the registration page and more information.
- **February 11 — Blueberry Production Workshop** in Eugene. The workshop will focus on biological and cultural controls for Mummyberry and SWD. [Visit the website](#) for more information or contact Jen Miller at jmiller@pesticide.org or 208-850-6504.
- **February 18 — Bayer's Bee Care Tour** ~ "Buzzing into Oregon: The Bee Care Tour. The Tour is part of Bayer's effort to foster education and collaboration among growers, beekeepers, researchers and other interested in engaging in topics related to honey bee health." Oregon State University, 10 am - Noon, CH2M Hill Alumni Center, Cascade Ballroom, 725 SW 26th St., Corvallis, OR 97331. [Email](#) for more information.

- **February 22 — Oregon Small Farms Conference.** This daylong event is geared toward farmers, agriculture professionals, food policy advocates, students and managers of farmers markets. OSU campus in Corvallis at the LaSells Steward Center and CH2M Hill Alumni Center. [Click here](#) for conference registration and a link to the schedule.
- **February 26 — 9th Annual ORBC Production Workshop for Commercial Raspberry and Blackberry Growers** ~ at the Wellspring Conference Center, 1475 Mt. Hood Ave., Woodburn, OR. Details coming soon. [Click here](#) for the draft agenda. Contact: Peerbolt Crop Management office (503)289-7287 or [email Tom Peerbolt](#).
- **March 10-11 — International Blueberry Organization Annual Conference.** The International Blueberry Organization (IBO) will hold its fourth annual event in Guadalajara, Mexico. [Click here](#) for a report on the event by Fresh Fruit Portal, or [click here](#) for a link to the IBO's website.
- **March 18 — Oregon Blueberry Commission** ~ 12 pm (Budget Preparation), at Chemeketa Events at Winema, Building 48, Room 210. Contact Bryan Ostlund for more information at 503-364-2944 or bryan@ostlund.com.
- **April 7- 9 — Global Berry Congress** ~ in Amsterdam. [Click here](#) for the conference's information page and registration.
- **April 9 — Washington Red Raspberry Commission** ~ Board meeting in Puyallup. [Contact Henry Bierlink](#) for more information.
- **April 29 — Oregon Blueberry Commission** ~ 12 pm (Budget Hearing), at Chemeketa Events at Winema, Building 48, Room 210. Contact Bryan Ostlund for more information at 503-364-2944 or bryan@ostlund.com.

[Click here](#) to go back to the top of this newsletter.

Archived Small Fruit Updates

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

[03-SFU01-14-14](#) [01-SFU01-02-14](#) [48-SFU11-26-13](#)

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

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