

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.

February 6, 2014

Week 6

Table of Contents

- [Winter damage](#)
- [SWD management update](#)
- [ORBC workshop](#)
- [Oregon blueberry meeting on Korean export market](#)
- [Grower resources](#)
- [Industry news/resources](#)
- [Event calendar](#)

- [Blueberries suffered greatest dip in Chilean export losses](#) (2/6, Fresh Fruit Portal)
- [Updated: Judge: Labor Department coerced blueberry growers](#) (1/21, The Packer)

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

Winter is back in full force across the Northwest. The Willamette Valley is seeing high wind gusts, night temps into the mid teens (-9.5 C) and snow. The Fraser Valley, after having highs in the range of 50 (10 C) in mid January is now seeing temps dipping below 20 (-6.5 C).

It's the kind of pattern that makes potential plant damage difficult to evaluate. Many plants have broken dormancy so they're more vulnerable to these conditions than they would have been a month ago.

I figured the information on cold damage below the photo (on next page) might again be timely. Potential cold damage is a topic that will be with us a while.

This photo is from a farm office. Inside's a good place to be right now.

Tom Peerbolt, SFU Editor

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](#)



Winter damage

Fall Creek Nursery Blog: [Frost Damage Report from Fall Creek's Breeder](#) (1/8/14) *Damaged bud counts from the various blueberry varieties following the December cold snap that went down to -8 F.*

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.

SWD management update

[Click here](#) for MSU's Spotted Wing Drosophila Website

The following (with some paraphrasing) is excerpted from [Dr Rufus Isaac's](#) (MSU Entomologist) presentation at the LMHIA meetings in Abbotsford last week.

Take home points

- SWD is well established, but it is a manageable pest.
- Aim for no risk of infestations being detected (not necessarily no infestations at all).
 - *Protect fruit from first ripening to last picking.*
 - *Reapply insecticides after rain.*

- *Make sure of excellent coverage.*
- *Rotate insecticides through various chemical classes to minimize resistance development.*
- Harvest frequently--Make best use of post-harvest sorting options--Use post harvest chilling.
- Biological controls have long-term potential.

Causes of sub-optimal SWD control in 2013

- Slow response to SWD when fruit are ripe.
- Insecticide spray intervals too long.
- No reapplication of insecticide after rain.
- Fruit-laden fields, made spraying and harvest difficult to coordinate.
- Dense plant canopies that limited spray penetration.
- Warm weather leading to rapid ripening of early cultivars.
- Cool weather stretching out late harvests.
- Low berry prices that delayed or cancelled some harvests leaving vulnerable fruit in the field.

SWD insecticide application recommendations for 2014

- Focus on the fruit ripening/harvest period.
- Use effective rates of effective products.
- Nu Lure or other feeding stimulants have shown promise enhancing insecticide efficacy.
- Tighten up intervals between applications if needed.
- Make sure of excellent coverage (gallons, speed, pruning, rows).
- Use a sticker adjuvant with Delegate. Caution: While enhancing efficacy, this could cause higher MRL.
- Reapply insecticide after rain.
- Know each insecticide's seasonal limits, PHI, REI, etc.

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

Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Production Workshop

- **February 26 — 9th Annual ORBC Production Workshop for Commercial Raspberry & Blackberry Growers**
 - 8-4 pm at the Wellspring Conference Center, 1475 Mt. Hood Ave., Woodburn.
 - We've got a couple of speakers addressing labor including a representative from the federal Department of Labor (DOL).
 - [Click here](#) for the agenda.
 - *Please RSVP if you plan on coming. It's free but space and food are limited. Call 503-289-7287 or email lora@peerbolt.com*

Oregon blueberry meeting on Korean export program

- **February 13 — 2014 Korea Export Program – Oregon Fresh Blueberries** ~ 10 am at the Chemeteka Events Center, Room 210, 4001 Winema Place N.E., Salem. Questions -- contact Bryan Ostlund at the Oregon Blueberry Commission, 503.364.2944, or [email](#).

Strawberry grower reminder/request from NASS

These NASS surveys are important for many various reasons. They're the main way, sometimes the only way, we can get an idea of what's happening with these crops. Please help out when you can. T.P.

From Dave Losh, Oregon State Statistician, USDA-National Agricultural Statistics Service, Northwest Region, 503 326-2131: "Please remind growers of the strawberry survey for the 2013 crop year."

- A sample of Strawberry growers in CA, OR, and WA were sent a questionnaire that they can respond to by mail or online.

- We'll begin phone follow-up for those who have not yet responded beginning Monday, February 3, until February 14.
- Growers can still respond online or by mail to avoid being called.
- Data will be released on March 27, 2014.

Control materials update

- [EPA restricts use of slug bait](#) (2/4, Capital Press)

Exirel, new SWD insecticide for 2014 blueberries

Exirel in Canada

- **From the Ontario Berry Grower Guide:** “ Exirel (#30895, cyantraniliprole, Group 28, DuPont). Registered on bushberries (Crop Group 13-07B) for blueberry maggot, plum curculio, Japanese beetle, cranberry fruitworm, leafrollers, and blueberry aphid.”
- [Click here](#) for the Canadian Exirel label.

Exirel in US

- [Click here](#) for the recently approved federal Exirel label.
- *This label includes blueberries but must still be approved by each state before it can be used.*

Some relevant details

- Exirel's active ingredient (Cyantraniliprole) is in a new insecticide class for SWD management.
- It has excellent efficacy on SWD.
- It has no established MRL's for export markets but there's some hope that Japan might have one by summer.
- Raspberries and blackberries are not on this label but could be included in a year or two.
- It's going to be expensive....

British Columbia berry registrations

- [Click here](#) for recent berry registrations and labels.
- [Click here](#) for B.C. emergency registrations & labels (includes most SWD management materials).

Update on Oregon & Washington Berry Registrations—New & Upcoming

- [Click here](#) for a PDF of Joe DeFrancesco's presentation at the North Willamette Hort. Society meeting held in Canby on 1/16/14.

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

Grower resources

- [Resources for Fresh Market Strawberry Growers](#) (Oregon Strawberry Commission) *This page was set up in conjunction with last week's OSC Fresh Market Strawberry Grower Workshop in Portland. On the left hand side it has a list of various fact sheets relevant to fresh market production.*

Industry news/resources

Meeting Presentations

- [North Willamette Horticulture Society Berry Section](#) (Held January 16, 2014, Canby, OR) *PDF's of many of the PowerPoint presentations.*
- [Washington Small Fruit Conference](#) (Held December 5 & 6, 2013, Lynden, WA) *Videos of many of the berry related presentations.*
- [Northeast \(US\) SWD IPM Working Group—Presentation/Reports](#) (held October 30, 2013, Bridgeton, N.J.)
- [California 2014 Annual Central Coast Strawberry meeting](#) *PDF's of PowerPoint presentations.*

Newsletters/ Berry reports

- [Whatcom Ag Monthly](#) Produced by WSU Whatcom County Extension. Includes excellent berry crop information.
- [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: 2/1— Understanding the sodium results on a soil analysis** Reports on recent insect and disease research and observations in California.
- [Team Rubus](#) by Gina Fernandez, North Carolina State Small Fruit Specialist. **Recent entry: 1/23— Assessing cold damage in blackberry and raspberry buds** Reports on issues in blackberries and raspberries from the Southeast.

Water/Climate

- Washington: [Snowpack grows a bit](#) (2/4, Capital Press)
- California: [California water agency reduces allocations to zero](#) (1/31, Capital Press)
- California: [Almonds, oranges, and grapes could be lost to drought](#) (2/5, Fresh Plaza)
- Oregon: [Klamath County declares second year of drought](#) (2/5, Capital Press)
- U.S. : [Ag secretary announces focus on climate change](#) (2/5, Capital Press)
- U.S. : [USDA invests in 'Climate Hubs'](#) (2/6, Western Farmer-Stockman)

Pest Management

- [Lawmakers, scientists are focused on the growing threat to crops from stink bugs](#) (1/29, The Washington Post)

Pollination

- [Syngenta supports Maritime research looking to boost bee populations and blueberry yields](#) (1/30, Syngenta Press Release)
- [Bumble bee deaths put Oregon in spotlight](#) (1/31, Capital Press)

Technology/equipment

- [Technology helps cull spotted wing drosophila fruit damage](#) (1/21, The Packer)
- [New approaches to frost control](#) (1/31, Good Fruit Grower) *Geared toward grape growers, this still has some great insights for berry growers.*

Politics & Ag

Farm bill

- [Obama to sign farm bill Friday](#) (5/5, Western Farmer-Stockman)
- [Making sense of the farm bill](#) (2/6, Western Farmer-Stockman)
- Oregon Senator Kurt Schrader: [Perseverance pays off in Farm Bill](#) (2/4, Capital Press)
- [Many ag groups applaud Senate's passage of farm bill](#) (2/5, Ag Professional)
- [New York Times Farm Bill Topics Area](#) *Chronology, compilation of farm bill stories from around the web. One stop shopping!*

Immigration

- [Agriculture groups launch campaign for immigration reform](#) (2/4, Fresh Plaza)
 - Their website: [I am immigration](#) *Very well done & organized.*
- [Eyeing a majority, Senate Republicans cool to House immigration plan](#) (2/4, The Hill)
- [Ryan: Immigration bill 'clearly in doubt'](#) (2/2, The Hill)
- [GOP battles base on immigration](#) (2/4, The Hill)

Business

- Michigan Governor, Rick Snyder, "[China could be a big market for Michigan blueberries](#)" (Dec., Fruit Grower News)

Land Grant Universities

- Oregon State: [Braunworth cites need to balance industry support, academic independence](#) (2/4, Capital Press)
- UC Davis: [UC-Davis says strawberry commission dispute on hold](#) (1/30, The Packer)

North America

- Florida: [Cold slows Florida strawberry harvest](#) (2/4, The Packer)
- North Carolina: [North Carolina Blueberry Council Website](#)

International

(FFP=Fresh Fruit Portal)

- [Chilean Crop Report for Week 6](#) (2/3-2/6) *From the Chilean Blueberry Committee.*
- Chile: [Despite freezes and strike, Chilean exports up](#) (2/5, The Packer)
- Germany: [Fruit Logistica to kick off in Berlin](#) (2/4, FFP)
- Peru: ["Any soil can be adapted to grow blueberries"](#) (2/5, Fresh Plaza) *Good luck with that...*

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



Event calendar

- **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.
- **New Posting: February 13 — Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission meeting.** Committee meetings start at 9am. Regular meeting at 12. At Langdon Farms Golf Club. [Click here](#) for the agenda. Call 541-758-4043 or email Phillip Gutt for more information
- **New Posting: February 13 — 2014 Korea Export Program – Oregon Fresh Blueberries** ~ 10 am at the Chemeteka Events Center, Room 210, 4001 Winema Place N.E., Salem. Questions -- contact Bryan Ostlund at the Oregon Blueberry Commission, 503.364.2944, or [email](#).
- **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](#) to RSVP.
- **New Posting: February 19 — Oregon Strawberry Commission Annual Meeting** ~ 9-2 pm at the North Willamette Research & Extension Center, Aurora. [Click here](#) for the agenda & contact information.

- **New Posting: February 21 — OSU Hood River Blueberry Pruning Workshop** ~ [Click here](#) for information. Call or [email](#) Steve Castagnoli 541-386-3343 ext 255 with questions.
- **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. [Click here](#) for the agenda. For more information, call the Peerbolt Crop Management office (503)289-7287 or [email Tom Peerbolt](#).
- **February 26-28 — NABC/USHBC Spring Meeting.** Westlake Village, CA. [Click here](#) for the online registration page.
- **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](#).)

[04-SFU01-21-14](#) [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.