

Small Fruit Update

Week 4 | January 25, 2018



In Memory of Jerry Dobbins

August 20, 1940 - January 12, 2018

A celebration of Jerry's life will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, January 27, 2018 at the Church of the Nazarene (747 Pioneer St., Ridgefield, Washington 98642). [Go here](#) to read the full obituary and share condolences or memories via the online guestbook.



Highlighted Industry Meetings:

January 25-27, 2018 — 2017 Growers' Short Course and Pacific Agriculture Show Tradex Exhibition Centre (Abbotsford Airport) Abbotsford, BC. [Go here](#) for more details and to register for the Short Course.

February 15, 2018 — Oregon Strawberry Annual Growers Meeting North Willamette Research and Extension Center. 9 AM - 12:40 PM. The Commission will provide lunch to everyone RSVPs. To reserve a lunch, contact [Philip Gutt](#) or call 541-758-4043. [Go here](#) for more information and the agenda.

February 19, 2018 — 2018 Blueberry Conference all day at Salem Convention Center, Salem, OR. Contact [Lisa Ostlund](#) for more details or call 503.364.2944. [Go here](#) for more details and to register.

See the full industry calendar

Next online blueberry course starts on January 26, 2018. [Register now!](#)

Bernadine Strik, Professor at Oregon State University, through Professional and Continuing Education (PACE) is offering the next installment of the online Blueberry Physiology, Production Systems & Management Course for commercial growers, consultants, advisors etc. starting on January 26, 2018. This is a 6-week course with about 3 hours of material opening up each week (you can review this material at a time convenient to you). The course has been offered three times to date and reviews from “students” of all kinds and from many locations have been great (see web site for statements).



Since the course fills up fast, we encourage you to [register soon](#). This will be the first of only two offerings in 2018 (starting Jan. 26 and again in late September).

Upcoming Webinars:

- **Feb 23, 2018:** [National Team Will Present Latest Information on Biological Control of SWD.](#)
- **Feb 27 2018:** (3PM Eastern) [Management of Spotted Wing Drosophila Using Organically Approved Strategies: An Update](#)
- **Feb 27, 2018** (1PM Eastern): [Tools for Farm Biodiversity](#)

News Highlights:

- [Curry & Company forms partnership with Oregon blueberry grower](#) (1/18, Fresh Plaza)
- [Blueberries on the rise: A closer look at demand, purchase drivers and usage](#) (January issue, Produce Business).

U.S:

- Opinion: [Healthy to eat, unhealthy to grow: Strawberries embody the contradictions of California agriculture](#) (1/23, US News & World Report) *originally published [here](#)*. California: [Strawberries up, raspberries and avocados slip in Ventura County](#) (1/17, AgWeb)
- [Strawberry slowdown only temporary after Florida freeze](#) (1/22, Fresh Plaza)
- [Wholesome Harvest introduces new organic berry company](#) (1/22, The Produce News)

Labor:

- [Washington H-2A guestworker use keeps growing](#) (1/19, Capital Press)

Water & Weather:

- [Umatilla to reuse data center water for agriculture](#) (1/24, Capital Press)
- [Deal reached in rural Washington water dispute](#) (1/18, Capital Press)
- [Researchers will soon predict the snowpack before the snow even falls](#) (1/23, Capital Press)

Policy:

International:

- [Demand spiking for imported blueberries](#) (1/22, Fresh Plaza)
- [Mexico: Large blackberry surface area needs replacing, claims Planamerica](#) (1/1, Fresh Fruit Portal)

Misc:

- [The current state of agricultural education](#) (1/23, Modern Farmer)

Pest Management:

Above: *Pseudomonas syringae* (bacterial blight) symptoms in blueberries. Photos are from Joyce Loper's & Virginia Stockwell's power point presentation of their work on this disease.

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

- Late January and February can bring warm spells 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 starting to think about fledging (*you know they are...*). Population control becomes very difficult once that starts 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.

If they're thinking about fledging, you need to think about managing them.

Job Opportunity: Horticulturist/Farm Manager - Mossyrock, WA

Pan American Berry Growers is seeking a full time Farm Manager to join their team at the Mossyrock location. [Go here](#) for the full job description and application instructions.

Scholarship Opportunity: The Oregon Blueberry Commission's 2018-19

Scholarship Program is now open. Applicants must be currently enrolled in college. Selection preference will be given to applicants who are enrolled in a Crop Science, Horticulture or Food Science Program. [Go here](#) for more more information and application instructions.

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