

# Small Fruit Update



## Disseminating information for: Washington

[Washington Red Raspberry Commission](#)  
[Washington Blueberry Commission](#)  
[Washington Strawberry Commission](#)

## Oregon

[Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission](#)  
[Oregon Blueberry Commission](#)  
[Oregon Strawberry Commission](#)

## British Columbia

[Fraser Valley Strawberry Growers Association](#)  
[Raspberry Industry Development Council](#)

## North American Small Fruit Organizations of Interest:

[North American Blueberry Council](#)  
[U.S. Highbush Blueberry Association](#)  
[North American Bramble Growers Association](#)  
[North American Strawberry Growers Association](#)

October 18, 2005

[Event Calendar](#)    [Small Fruit Cold Storage Reports](#)    [Weather Forecast](#) by Rufus La Lone

**Small Fruit Update Archives:** To find previous Updates -- all the way back to when we first started doing them in February of 2000 -- go to the Small Fruit Update Archives on our Peerbolt Crop Management business site by [clicking here](#).

**Northwest Small Fruit Event Calendar:** We used to list calendar events in this Update, but the list has got so extensive we put a link to the web site calendar (see under the date above). If you've got events that you'd like listed on the calendar, please pass them along to us.

## Meeting Updates:

- The **Washington Red Raspberry Commission** will be having three meetings in Lynden, WA on Wednesday, 11/2. 7:30-9:30 AM- raspberry breeding program support committee, 10-12—research committee meeting, 1-3 PM regular commission meeting. Contact the [commission's office](#), (360) 354-8767 for more information.
- The dates for the **Lower Mainland Horticultural Short Course** in Abbotsford, B.C. are February 16-18.
- The usual December **Small Fruit Workshop in Lynden, WA.** will not be held due to a timing conflict with the Rubus and Ribes Symposium in Chile. Most of the usual workshop speakers and organizers will be in Chile.

## Job offerings:

**1) Washington State University Associate in Research-Small Fruits:** Mount Vernon, WA, Northwestern Washington Research and Extension Center. To manage research plots onsite and throughout the state, collect timely data, supervise temporary workers, purchase supplies and coordinate equipment maintenance. BS or BA in Agronomy, Horticulture or allied field required; MS or three years' experience preferred. Send resume and cover letter by October 28 to Dr. Tom Walters: [twwalters@wsu.edu](mailto:twwalters@wsu.edu) (360-848-6124).

**2) Sakuma Brothers Farms** in Burlington, WA is expanding operations and has four openings. For more information on any of these, contact the HR Dept, Sakuma Bros. Farms, Inc., P.O. Box 427, Burlington, WA, FAX (360) 757-3936 or [hrdept@sakumabros.com](mailto:hrdept@sakumabros.com)

- **Manager for Organic Berry Operations**, Manage planting, production, harvest, and administrative operations for organic small fruits. Degree in Agriculture or Horticulture and minimum 3 years supervisory experience in a similar capacity, or equivalent education and experience. Computer skills, bilingual English-Spanish preferred.
- **Grower Liaison for Small Fruit Processing Operations** Provide technical assistance to growers, schedule harvest, grower contracts, quality control. Customer service skills, and the ability to provide consultation in best horticultural practices, harvest projections/execution, and quality assurance. AA degree w/5 years exp. in related field/industry.
- **Crop Manager for Blueberry and/or Caneberry Divisions.** Minimum of 5 years exp. managing pest control, fertility, irrigation and soil analysis of significant acreage of small fruits. Computer, budgeting, safety and training skills required. Degree in Agriculture, Horticulture or related field desired. Bi-lingual English-Spanish preferred.
- **Tissue Culture Lab Supervisor** Responsible for supervision of the small fruit micro-propagation facility that directly supports the small fruit production farm, raspberry nursery and processing plant in Washington as well as

the strawberry nursery in California. Also responsible for producing tissue culture products for outside sales, [Click here](#) for a full description of this position.

**Oregon Strawberry Crop Estimate:** The 2005 crop, according to assessments received to date, stands at just over 23 million pounds. 2004's was 25.5 million.

**Using Horse Barn Shavings for Mulching Blueberries:** One of our contributors says there are some areas of concern to check out: 1) It can contain urea that can burn plants. 2) The pH can be in the 6.5-7.0 range. 3) Government regulations could require that it be handled as a manure with added storage and handling requirements.

**Website of the Week:** [Tunnel facts](#). This is a United Kingdom site with a lot of information on using tunnels for small fruit growing as well as the state of the small fruit industry in the UK-65 % of their production is now done in tunnels. Seems they're having some problems with neighbors who object to all those tunnels spoiling their scenic rural views.

**Ongoing Seasonal Pest Information** (Click on blue highlighted name for pictures, scouting and control information)

#### **Vertebrate pests**

**Voles:** [Click here](#) for management information and [Click here](#) for more information on population-monitoring methods.

#### **Insects/ Mites:**

- 1) **Strawberry Crown Moth:** Infested plants either completely collapse or are weakened and show premature reddening.
- 2) **Weevils**, strawberries. [Black Vine](#), [Strawberry](#) and [Rough Strawberry](#) root weevils.
- 3) **Raspberry Crown Borer**, caneberrries: Look for weak stands with wilted canes. Check for borers in the crowns.

#### **Diseases:**

- 1) **Bacterial Blight**, blueberries. Many growers apply copper or Bordeaux mix to help prevent bacterial blight.
- 2) **Phytophthora root rot:** In raspberries, growers can apply **Aliette** (or its equivalent) before the leaves start turning. **Ridomil** can be applied later, just before the heavy rains start. Gypsum applications as well as anything that improves drainage (hilling and/or subsoiling) are also beneficial for root rot control.

#### **Cropwork**

**All Crops:** 1) Scout for voles and treat as needed. 2) Weed control.

**Raspberries:** 1) Cane out. 2) Take soil tests. 3) Can plant cover crop. 4) Scout and mark problem weed areas that could be treated in the winter. 5) Can apply Aliette (or its equivalent) for root rot before leaf fall. 6) Apply lime, dolomite, gypsum and/or fall fertilizer. 7) Subsoil and/or hill. 8) Can apply copper or Bordeaux after tying up canes.

**Blackberries:** 1) Cane out. 2) Take soil test. 3) Scout and mark problem weed areas that could be treated in the winter. 4) Can plant cover crop between rows. 5) Apply lime, dolomite, gypsum and/or fall fertilizer. 6) Subsoil.

**Blueberries:** 1) Apply copper or Bordeaux for bacterial canker. 2) Take soil tests. 3) Scout for weevil feeding on lower suckers. 4) Apply sulfur, lime, dolomite, gypsum and/or fall fertilizer.

**Strawberries:** 1) Scout for root weevils. 2) (south) Scout for Strawberry Crown Moth. 3) Apply lime, dolomite, gypsum and/or fall fertilizer.