

Small Fruit Update



January 29, 2008

[Weather Forecast](#) by Rufus La Lone

[Photo of the Week](#): Winter blueberry field in the Willamette Valley.

[Small Fruit Cold Storage Report](#)

Small Fruit Commission Vacancies

- **Washington Blueberry Commission:** Growers in any region of Washington interested in serving on the commission can call Alan Schreiber (509) 266-4305 or [email](#) him.
- **Washington Red Raspberry Commission:** District 3 is vacant. This district covers western Washington from Lewis County on south. Contact Henry Bierlink at 360-354-8767 or [email](#) him.

Industry News

- **Washington State Blueberries Revised 2007 Crop Total:** According to commission assessments the 2007 crop in Washington State was 28,400,000. This is up significantly from the original estimate of 20,000,000.
- **Spring blueberry/cranberry symposium in Oregon:** The 9th International *Vaccinium* Symposium will be held at Oregon State University in Corvallis July 14-16, 2008. In addition, a pre-conference tour is scheduled to tour blueberry, cranberry, and lingonberry production in the area. Although this is a scientific meeting with researchers from all over the world presenting, some industry members may wish to attend. For more information [click here](#) for the web site – Bernadine Strik and Chad Finn, co-conveners.

Positions Available

- **Blueberry/Blackberry Development Manager:** “Under the direction of the EVP of Strategic Development, the Berry Manager will assist global blueberry and blackberry grower base with the agronomic knowledge needed to rapidly and continuously advance successful commercial production practices. The Berry Manager will advise and coordinate with the research department in the discovery and development of production innovations. The Berry Manager will assist in the sourcing and development of new growers; will provide production and economic analysis to the grower base; and will participate in the long-term planning of blueberry and blackberry production programs.” [Click here](#) for more information.
- **Scouting Supervisor/Research Technician:** Peerbolt Crop Management has an opening for a Scouting Supervisor/ Research Technician. This is a full time, permanent, hourly position. Position entails working as part of a team to achieve company’s priorities and communicating effectively with growers, researchers and other industry people. Primary components of the position are hiring, training and supervising seasonal field scouts. The position is also responsible for assisting in research by maintaining field experiments, collecting and analyzing data, and assisting in developing grant proposals, budgets and other documents related to proposals. [Click here to see full description.](#)

Bacterial Blight (*Pseudomonas syringae*) Control in Blueberries

There has been some very good work done in British Columbia looking at various control materials for this disease.

- For a report on work done in 2004, [click here](#) (20pg),
- for work done in 2006, [click here](#) (11 pg).
- For a power point presentation on *Pseudomonas* symptoms and control trials, [click here](#).

Disclaimer: *Not all research trial materials are registered for field use, check with your extension agent, supplier or consultant for details.*

Pest Activity

- **[Pseudomonas \(Bacterial Blight\)](#) blueberries:** Water-soaked lesions are appearing on canes in some fields that then develop into a **reddish brown to black cankers**. Cankers may extend from a fraction of an inch to the entire

length of 1-year-old wood. Buds in cankers die. If girdled, the cane portion above the canker dies.

Recommended management: The lesions now being seen are the effects of past infections. To prevent future lesions from forming, copper sprays are recommended starting when the temperatures get warmer, usually around **mid-February** in the Willamette Valley and SW Washington. **Good coverage** is essential with copper.

- **Voles:** There are signs of a lot of vole activity area blueberry and caneberry fields. [Click here](#) for some background and biology information on voles (or meadow mice). [Click here](#) for information on how to construct bait stations.

Cropwork

All Crops

- Scout for voles and treat as needed.

Blueberries

- Can apply copper or Bordeaux.
- Finish pruning- apply Bordeaux after pruning.
- Scout for bud damage & determine cause.
- Dormant oil can be applied for scale and winter moth egg control.
- Can apply Casoron (dichlobenil) for weed control. Especially good on quackgrass.

Blackberries

- Mechanically “brush” canes to remove detritus that could become harvest contaminants.
- Don’t begin training down Marionberries until after threat of damaging cold weather is passed.
- Can apply Casoron (dichlobenil) for weed control. Especially good on quackgrass.

Evergreen Blackberries

- Dormant spray of lime/sulfur or elemental sulfur in mid-February for Redberry mites.

Raspberries

- Can apply Casoron (dichlobenil) for weed control. Especially good on quackgrass.

Strawberries

- Can apply pre-emergent herbicides
 - One choice--Spartan (sulfentrazone) until February 28. It's off label after that date.

Upcoming Meetings:

January 29-31—Northwest Ag Show ~ Expo Center, Portland, [Click here](#) and then click on the ‘Ag show’ link for information.

January 30—Blueberry Seminar Day at the Oregon Hort Society annual meeting ~ 8:25-1:00, Red Lion Hotel at Jantzen Beach, Portland, [Click here](#) and then click on the ‘OHS Annual Notice (with seminar schedules)’ link for detailed agenda information.

February 6—Washington Strawberry Commission ~ 9-11, Chicona Room, WSU Puyallup, 7212 Pioneer E., Puyallup. For information call [Walter Swenson](#), commission manager 360-352-1236.

February 6—Oregon Strawberry Commission ~ noon, Roth’s IGA West. Salem. For information call the commission office at 541-758-4043.

February 13—Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission ~ 11 AM, Langdon Farms, Aurora. For information call the commission office at 541-758-4043.

February 13—Washington Red Raspberry Commission ~ 1 PM, Firehouse, Lynden. For information call the commission office at 360-354-8767.

February 13—Whatcom Farmers Coop ~ Lynden, WA, Berry workshop for their customers. To RSVP, call 354-2418

February 14-16 —Horticulture Grower's Short Course & Pacific Agriculture Show ~ Abbotsford, BC. [See the website](#) for program information and registration or contact Mark Sweeney 604-556-3056.

February 6 —Oregon Strawberry Commission meeting ~ noon, Roth's IGA in Salem. Call the commission office for more information 541-758-4044.

February 13 —Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission meeting ~ 11 am. Langdon Farms Golf Club, Aurora, OR. Call the commission office for more information 541-758-4044.

February 13 —Washington Red Raspberry Commission meeting ~ 1 pm at the firehouse in Lynden, WA. Call 360-354-8767 or [email Henry Bierlink](#), Executive Director, for more information.

February 14-16 —Horticulture Grower's Short Course & Pacific Agriculture Show ~ Abbotsford, BC. [See the website](#) for program information and registration or contact Mark Sweeney 604-556-3056.

February 16 —Good Agricultural Practices Workshop for the Blueberry Industry ~ LaSells Steward Center, OSU, Corvallis. Call the Oregon Blueberry Commission for more information 503-364-2944.

February 20 —Oregon Strawberry Commission Annual Growers meeting with Research Reports ~ Time & agenda TBA, North Willamette Research and Extension Center, Aurora. Call the commission office for more information 541-758-4044.

February 27— Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission Grower Workshop ~ 9-3:30, North Willamette Research and Extension Center, Aurora, call Peerbolt Crop Management at 503-289-7287 for more information

