

Small Fruit Update



January 12, 2009

New: [You Tube link of the week](#): A Serbian mechanical raspberry harvester in action.

[Photos of the week](#): Winter in the Northwest.

[Upcoming Meetings](#): A calendar of small fruit related events

[The Weather Cafe](#) by Rufus La Lone

[Small Fruit Cold Storage Report](#)

Pest Information

- [Pseudomonas \(Bacterial Blight\)](#) **blueberries**: Water-soaked lesions usually appear at this time of year 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](#): Vole activity is apparent in some blueberry and caneberry fields. Management of voles is most effective in the spring before they start multiplying like...voles. Kind of like weeds—get them before their reproduction cycle kicks in. [Click here](#) for some background and biology information on voles (or meadow mice). [Click here](#) for information on how to construct bait stations.

Crop totals Update:

- **Oregon strawberries**: Final commission assessment numbers for 2008: 22,080,566 lbs. (2007 was 22,710,700).
- **Oregon blueberries**: Commission assessment numbers, with just a few growers left to report, for 2008 are:

Processed:	23,441,595
Fresh:	17,076,819
On-Farm sales:	2,351,201
Total:	42,869,614

Industry News

- **Robotic Japanese strawberry picker**: [Click here](#). Not exactly field ready but interesting technology.
- **Well Pict Berries website**: [Click here](#) A new website by a very large fresh market berry company.
- **Strawberry production hits record**: [Click here](#) *The Californian.com* article. 11/25/08
- **New pesticide regulations concern berry farmers (Florida)**: [Click here](#) *The Ledger.com* article. This concerns proposed fumigant restrictions that also affect the northwest. 10/31/08
- **An electric future for strawberry farming**: [Click here](#) *Freshplaza.com*
- **United Farm Workers denounce Bush Administration change to H2A program**: [Click here](#) *Portland Examiner* article. 12/15/08
- **Producers pay more as growing gets more expensive**: [Click here](#) *Vegetable Grower News* article.
- **Blueberries can help fight memory loss**: [Click here](#) *News:lite* article. 12/1/08
- **Driscoll strengthens ties with Chilean partners**: [Click here](#) *The Produce News*. 12/11/08

Upcoming Events

- **January 13-15—North Willamette Valley Horticulture Society Annual Meeting** ~ Clackamas County Fairgrounds, Canby.
 - **1/13** Organic production sessions-- Information: Nick Andrews, 503-678-1264 Ext 149
 - **1/14** Vegetable sessions-- Information: Bob McReynolds, 503-678-1264 Ext 125
 - **1/15** Berry sessions-- Information: Diane Kaufman, Ext 123

- **January 19-21—North American Strawberry Growers Association annual meeting** ~ New Orleans, LA. www.nasga.org.
- **January 27— Oregon Horticultural Society Annual Meeting and Northwest agricultural show**~ 7:30 am. Portland Expo Center. Blueberry seminars will be held at the Expo Center on 1/27 from 8am-12pm. For more information and the blueberry seminar agenda [Click here](#) or call 503-371-7457.
- **January 28— Washington Red Raspberry Commission meeting**~ Lynden, WA. For information call Henry Bierlink at 360-354-8767 or [email](#) him.
- **February 3— Oregon Strawberry Commission meeting**~ 10:30 am. West Salem Roth's. For more information: 541-758-4043.
- **February 17— Oregon Strawberry Commission annual meeting**~ North Willamette Research and Extension Center. Aurora, OR. Call 541-758-4043 or email [Philip Gütt](#) for more information.
- **February 18— Washington Red Raspberry Commission meeting**~ Lynden, WA. For information call Henry Bierlink at 360-354-8767 or [email](#) him.
- **February 19-21— 11th Annual Pacific Agriculture Trade Show**~ Tradex Exhibition Center (Abbotsford, B.C. airport). Blueberry session Feb. 21st. Sponsored by B.C. Innovation Council. [Click here](#) for official website.
- **February 21— 9th Annual Extension Small Farms Conference** ~ 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM. Corvallis, OSU Alumni Center. Michael Rozyne, founder of Red Tomato, will speak on The Dignity Deal: Red Tomato's Fresh Approach to Marketing Produce. [Registration materials](#) on-line after January 9 or call the Benton County Extension Office at 541-766-3556 or toll free at 1-800-365-0201.
- **February 25— 4th Annual Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission Grower Workshop** ~ 9:00 am -3:30 pm, North Willamette Research and Extension Center, Aurora. Call Peerbolt Crop Management at 503-289-7287 for more information.