



October 14, 2009

[The Weather Cafe](#) by Rufus La Lone.
[Industry calendar of events](#)

Regional reports

These reports are from individuals within the region and are their particular observations. They are included to give an impression of the present 'state of the industry' and regional activities.

- **British Columbia, Fraser Valley** (10/14) Spotted Wing Drosophila trapping over the last couple of weeks has shown it to be well distributed in all areas of the Fraser valley; some were even found in grapes last week. A BC working group is having a first meeting next week to discuss strategy. We plan to participate in a PNW-wide effort (see *pest information section below for more Spotted Wing Drosophila information*).
- **Northern Washington, Whatcom County** (10/12) Lots and lots of frost with the nice weather we have had. Rain is starting tonight. It should clear up around April or May.
- **Northern Washington, Skagit County** (10/12) Things are definitely winding down. Only one grower still picking in the valley. Fall protection cover sprays are mostly on, and a good deal of fall herbicide work is finished. Recent frosts are hastening the rush to dormancy. A good thing, if it's going to turn winter and not let up! The Spotted Wing Drosophila issue is going to be huge, as it has cost some growers here quite a bit, even though the infestation came late. Nothing like making juice out of two dollar fifty cent fruit to get attention.

2009 Northwest Raspberry, Blackberry and Strawberry Plant Sales: Compiled by Dr. Pat Moore, the WSU Small Fruit plant breeder, from information voluntarily shared by the wholesale nurseries: [Click here](#). This information is useful for, among other things, looking at cultivar planting trends and seeing how many new plantings are going in in a given year.

Meeting Information

[Click here](#) for the full calendar of Northwest berry crop events.

- **October 15-17— North American Blueberry Council fall meeting**~ 8am. The Benson Hotel, Portland, OR. See [memo](#) from the council, [reservation information](#) and [tentative meeting schedule](#) for more details.
- **October 19— Washington Blueberry Commission**~ 10:30am. WSU Research Auditorium, Mt. Vernon, WA. For information contact [Jessica Welch](#) or [Alan Schreiber](#) 509-266-4305.
- **October 27— Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission** ~ 12pm. Langdon Farms Golf Course. For information contact [Philip Gütt](#): 541-758-4043.
- **October 28— Washington Red Raspberry Commission Board Meeting**~ 1pm-5 pm. 19th Street Firehall, Lynden, WA. For information call Henry Bierlink at 360-354-8767 or [email](#) him.
- **November 5— Oregon Strawberry Commission**~ 12 pm. Roth's in West Salem. 1130 Wallace Rd NW. For more information contact [Philip Gütt](#): 541-758-4043.
- **November 8-10—Southeast Strawberry Expo** ~ Sheraton Imperial Hotel, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. For more information, contact the NC Strawberry Association, info@ncstrawberry.com, www.ncstrawberry.com, phone 919-542-4037, or write NCSA 1138 Rock Rest Rd, Pittsboro, NC 27312.
- **November 11— Oregon Blueberry Commission** ~ 12 pm. Doaks Ferry Room, West Salem Roths IGA, OR. Call 503 364-2944 for more information.
- **December 2-4— Northwest Center for Small Fruits Research Annual Conference**~ Kennewick, WA. [Click here](#) for registration and agenda information.
- **December 7— Washington Red Raspberry Commission Annual Meeting**~ Details TBA. Lynden, WA. For information call Henry Bierlink at 360-354-8767 or [email](#) him.
- **December 8— WSU Small Fruit Workshop**~ Details TBA. For information contact Colleen Burrows, WSU Whatcom County Extension, 360-676-6736 or [email](#) her.

- **December 8— Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission Annual Meeting**~ Wellspring Medical Center, Woodburn, Oregon. For more information contact [Philip Gütt](#): 541-758-4043.
- **December 9— Washington Blueberry Commission Annual Meeting**~ 9-5, Best Western CottonTree Inn Mt Vernon, WA. For information contact Alan Schreiber, 509-266-4305 or [email](#) him.

Industry news/resources

- (Florida) **Strawberry fields being planted:** [Click here](#) (10/8, Plant City Courier & Tribune)
- (US) **Monsanto widens loss on lower sales:** [Click here](#) (10/7, New York Times)
- (Cal) **California establishes state blueberry commission:** [Click here](#) (10/9, The Packer)
- (US) **Ten common food poisoning risks:** [Click here](#) (10/6, New York Times) Berries made the list.
 - [Click here](#) for the full 12 page report from the Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI)
 - [Click here](#) for an industry response from United Fresh and the Produce Marketing Association (10/9, GrowingProduce.com)
- (Canada) **Oppenheimer and Ocean Spray launch imported blueberry program:** [Click here](#) (10/14, freshplaza.com)
- (Eastern Canada) **Strawberry research yields longer growing season:** [Click here](#) (10/14, CBCNews.ca)
- (Louisiana) **LSU AgCenter receives \$518,000 to develop blueberry web site:** [Click here](#) (10/13, LSU press release)
- (Australia) **Low prices to threaten Australian food production capacity?:** [Click here](#) (10/12, Aust. Food News)

Regulatory news

- **EPA allows public to review pesticides:** [Click here](#) for the article (10/1 Fruit Grower News) [Click here](#) for the details on the EPA website.
- **Obama administration revokes no match rule:** [Click here](#) (10/8, The Packer)
- **Federal agencies unite to write food safety rules:** [Click here](#) (10/8, GrowingProduce.com)

Commission Requests for Research Proposals

- **Washington Red Raspberry Commission:** [Click here](#) for the RFP form, priority list and contact information. Proposals are due by October 23rd.
- **Oregon Blueberry Commission:** [Click here](#) for the RFP form, priority list and contact information. Proposals are due by December 1st.

Chemical Control Update

- **Broadleaf weeds, blueberries:** Once blueberry leaves turn red and start to drop, [Saber \(2,4-D\)](#) herbicide can be used for control of broadleaf weeds with much reduced risk of plant damage. Always use caution when using 2,4-D in blueberries.

Pest Information

(Click on blue, underlined pest name to link to further scouting information, photos, and control options)

[Voles:](#) All crops

Insects

New potential pest alert: [Spotted Wing Drosophila \(SWD\)](#), all berry crops:

- Economic damage, in some cases severe, from SWD has been identified this fall in western Oregon and western Washington blueberries, blackberries, and primocane raspberries.
 - The pest has been recovered in all west side berry growing areas of Oregon, Washington and British Columbia.
 - Since we still don't have good knowledge of the lifecycle and overwintering ability of SWD in the Northwest, it seems prudent to assume that it presents a very serious threat to the berry crops in these areas until shown otherwise.
 - Next season will fill in a lot of gaps in our knowledge, but we don't want that knowledge to come at the expense of crop losses and/or unneeded insecticide applications.
- [Strawberry Crown Moth](#), **strawberries:** Infested strawberry plants either completely collapse or are weakened and show premature reddening.
 - [Strawberry Crown Moth](#), **blackberries:** In blackberries, primocanes are girdled and easily break during training. Infested fields show fewer, weaker canes.
 - **Weevils, strawberries:** [Black Vine](#), [Strawberry](#) and [Rough Strawberry](#) root weevils. With cool, wetter fall weather, weevil adult feeding damage (leaf notching) can be found. Rough Strawberry root weevils also lay

eggs during this time and control measures for Rough Strawberry and other species could be needed in infested fields.

Diseases

- **Godronia Canker**, British Columbia blueberries.
- **Bacterial Blight**, blueberries.
- **Phytophthora Root Rot**, raspberries: **Ridomil** can be applied just before heavy rains start. Gypsum applications as well as anything that improves drainage (hilling and/or subsoiling) are also beneficial for root rot control.
- **Rust in Evergreen Blackberries**: (*Phragmidium violaceum*): It has become very active with the cooler weather. It's recommended that you remove all old fruiting canes as soon as possible to minimize the amount of infected material in the field.

Cropwork

All crops

- Can take soil tests for fertility and/or nematodes.
- Maintain weed control.
- Scout for voles and treat as needed.

Caneberries

- Can cut out old floricanes now and tie up primocanes.
- Scout and mark problem weed areas that could be treated in the winter.
- Can apply Ridomil for root rot control.
- Apply lime, dolomite, gypsum and/or fall fertilizer.
- Subsoil and/or hill.
- Can apply copper or Bordeaux after tying up canes.
- Can drench for borer control.

Blueberries

- Scout for weevil notching on lower leaves.
- Apply copper or Bordeaux for bacterial canker.
- Apply sulfur, lime, dolomite, gypsum and/or fall fertilizer.

Strawberries

- Scout weak areas for root weevil larvae, Strawberry Crown Moth, root disease or soil problems.
- Scout for weevil notching on leaves.
- Apply lime, dolomite, gypsum and/or fall fertilizer.