



January 19, 2010

[Video of the Week](#): USDA video explaining the new Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) regulations. And it seems like it should be so simple, right?

[Website of the Week](#): “**eXtension**”. “An internet-based collaborative environment where Land Grant University...” This site just won a USDA ‘Honor Award’. It brings together a lot of Extension resources both local and national.

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

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

[Small Fruit Cold Storage Report](#)

Format change coming for the Small Fruit Update—2nd notice

Starting in March, we’re going to begin sending out this newsletter using a new format. We’ll still send a message by email as always, but you’ll then click on a link within the email that will take you to a web page display of the latest Small Fruit Update. Among many other improvements, you’ll have the option of clicking on past newsletters. Many other online newsletters are done in this way, and it works very well.

For most of you, we don’t anticipate any difficulties. However, if you’ve been receiving the Update in plain text form (without blue colored hot links) you won’t be able to view this new version. As a test, [click here on this link](#) to go to the Rutgers Blueberry Bulletin. If you are unable to get to the Rutgers site and open one of the bulletins, you’re going to have trouble opening our new format in a few weeks. If so, contact us (503-289-7287 or info@peerbolt.com) and we will try to assist you in making the needed changes.

For a few issues we’ll be using both formats to allow for the transition before we get into the growing season. Please contact us with any comments or questions.

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 (1/18)

Pruning of blues and raspberries well underway in the Fraser valley since early December. Doesn't appear to be any winter damage of note. But the concern is damage from here on in as the temps are really too high this early in January. Buds are starting to move on both raspberry and blues which could be dangerous down the road.

Getting some copper on blues for bacterial blight as the weather permits.

Whatcom County, Northern Washington (1/13)

Watching paint dry right now. Blues are getting pruned. Blueberry fields that didn't get copper applications are starting to show signs of disease with the warm (55+) weather we have been having. Raspberries still look good. Not too many dead buds so far (knock on wood). The last thing that we need is a cold snap after all of this mild weather.

Skagit County, Northern Washington (1/14)

The good news:

- Plants have been very dormant since early this last fall.
- No long periods of sub freezing temps (so far).
- No floods that put the crops underwater for long periods (so far).

The bad news:

- Due to early and long dormant period, this last little bubble of warm weather has the buds opening. Leaves are already out on some plants. Not good, as we are not even thirty days into winter yet. Lots of time for damage to occur.

- Probably not a tough enough winter to help us with many of our disease and insect issues.

Many are already finished pruning their blueberries, some (like me) haven't even started and some are in between. Raspberry pruning is mostly done, and the blacks are coming along.

Willamette Valley, Oregon and SW Washington (1/16)

Following the single digit December temperatures, speculation about cold damage in Marion blackberries is about the only thing going on right now. We certainly got cold, but the plants were as dormant and as cold hardy as they'd ever be. We won't know much for sure for at least another month, probably more like late March. The mild weather recently is bringing plants out of dormancy; so, if we got those kinds of temperatures now, there'd be a lot more risk of major damage. Copper going on some of the blues. Pre-emergent herbicides also starting to be applied.

Statistics

Strawberries, in pounds, based on commission assessments

Data from the commissions doesn't fully account for local fresh markets because many don't report their sales.

| | Oregon | Washington |
|------|---------------|-------------------|
| 2009 | 18,759,217 | 13,760,523 |
| 2008 | 22,441,595 | 13,163,567 |
| 2007 | 22,710,700 | 13,102,479 |
| 2006 | 19,646,682 | 12,327,962 |
| 2005 | 23,300,874 | 14,315,520 |
| 2004 | 25,500,000 | 14,304,702 |

New Pest Management Information

- **Spotted Wing Drosophila:**
 - [Click here](#) for the recently posted British Columbia SWD Pest Alert. Great information and photos.
 - [Click here](#) to go to the blog maintained by Mark Bolda, UC Extension agent. Mark regularly posts results for his SWD monitoring and control material trials for both conventional and organic growers. [Click here](#) to view and/or subscribe to the RSS feed on the site to get any recent posts sent to you immediately.

New grower information pages funded by the Oregon and Washington blueberry commissions

These web pages were developed by Peerbolt Crop Management (PCM). If you have suggested additional links and/or comments please call PCM at 503-289-7287 or [email](#).

- **Blueberry native pollinator information online:** [Click here](#).
- **Online blueberry grower guide to using raptors for bird management:** [Click here](#).

Ongoing Pest Management Information

- **[Pseudomonas \(Bacterial Blight\)](#) blueberries:** Water-soaked lesions usually appear at this time of year on canes in some fields that then develop into 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.

Pollinator News & Information

- **Groups seek regulation of bumblebee shipments:** [Click here](#) (1/12, Seattle PI)
- **Rufus Isaacs, Michigan State Univ. Entomologist, explains one of their blueberry pollination research projects:** [Click here](#) (YouTube video)
- **Rufus Isaacs explains their bumble bees in blueberries research project:** [Click here](#) (YouTube video)

Grant Opportunities

- **Oregon Department of Ag now accepting proposals for specialty crop grant funding:** [Click here](#). Concept papers are due on February 16.
- **Washington Department of Ag now accepting proposals for specialty crop grant funding:** [Click here](#). Concept papers are due on February 5.

Newsletters

- **The Source for 1/18:** Semi-weekly market news from The Produce News: [Click here](#). California strawberries are seeing a big downturn in quality as the steady rains continue.

Industry Related News

- **Blueberries may boost memory in older adults: Study:** [Click here](#) (1/11, BeverageDaily.com)
- **New FDA deputy to lead Food-safety mandate:** [Click here](#) (1/14, Washington Post)
- **Woodland strawberry genome sequenced:** [Click here](#) (1/15, The Western Farm Press)
- **Lower Chilean volumes still represent a lot of fruit:** [Click here](#) (1/18, The Produce News)
- **Chilean Fresh Fruit Association (CFFA) sites growing opportunities for Chilean fresh fruit in new decade:** [Click here](#) (1/18, The Produce News)
- **Florida freeze may have damaged 30% of crops:** [Click here](#) (1/14, TampaBayOnline.com)
- **Governor Crist asks for agriculture disaster declaration:** [Click here](#) (1/15, The Palm Beach Post)
- **Mississippi blueberry acreage on the rise:** [Click here](#) (1/15, Delta Farm Press)

International Berry Crop Websites

- **Chilean Berry Crop Information:** [Click here](#)
- **Serbian Fruit News:** [Click here](#)

Upcoming Events

- **January 17-20—96th Annual NW Food Manufacturing and Packaging Expo and Conference~** Portland, OR. Convention Center. Visit www.nwfpa.org in the coming months to view the 2010 Expo event pages.
- **January 26—Oregon Horticulture Society Annual Meeting and 41st Annual NW Ag Show~** Portland, OR Expo Center. Blueberry session 1-4 pm, [Click here](#) for more information. [Click here](#) for the seminar agenda.
- **January 27—Washington Red Raspberry Commission meeting~** Lynden, WA. 1-5pm, Lynden Fire Station, [Email](#) Henry Bierlink for more information or call him at 360-354-8767.
- **January 28-30—Horticulture Growers' Short Course (part of Tradex 12th Annual Pacific Ag Show)~** Abbotsford, British Columbia, CA. [Click here](#) for the agenda and registration information. Please note that the dates for this 2010 show are different from previous years due to the Olympics.
- **February 2—Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission meeting~** 12pm. Langdon Farms Golf Course, Aurora, OR. Contact [Philip Gutt](#) or call the commission office at 541-758-4043 for more information.
- **February 4—Oregon Strawberry Commission meeting~** 12pm. Roth's, Salem. Contact [Philip Gutt](#) or call the commission office at 541-758-4043 for more information.
- **New information: February 5—Meet Dr. Sonny Ramaswamy- OSU's new dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences at a gathering for the Agricultural Industry and Stakeholders~** 2-5pm, Large Conference Room, OSU North Willamette Research & Extension Station. Sonny will give his vision for the future of the College with time for questions and discussions afterwards. Refreshments provided. RSVP to the Station at 503-678-1264.
- **February 17—Oregon Strawberry Commission Annual meeting~** TBA. North Willamette Research and Extension Center, Aurora, OR. Contact [Philip Gutt](#) or call the commission office at 541-758-4043 for more information.
- **February 24-26—North American Blueberry Commission (NABC) & U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council (USHBC) meeting~** Phoenix, AZ. Embassy Suites Hotel. Phoenix Airport at 44th St. [Click here](#) for the schedule, registration and other information.
- **February 24-26—The North American Raspberry & Blackberry (NARBA) Conference~** Monterey, California. Pre/post conference tours are also being planned. This is NARBA's annual meeting (formerly called North American Bramble Growers Association). The host hotel is the [Beach Resort Monterey](#). For further information about sponsoring, exhibiting, or attending, contact: NARBA, 1138 Rock Rest Rd., Pittsboro, NC 27312. 919-542-4037, info@raspberryblackberry.com, www.raspberryblackberry.com.
- **New information: March 3—5th Annual Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission Grower Workshop~** 8:30am-3:30pm, Wellspring Center in Woodburn. While there is **no charge**, food and space are limited; so, please let us if you're planning to attend. Call (503-289-7287) or [email Beth Unger](#) at the Peerbolt Crop Management office.