

Small Fruit Update



News and opinions from [Peerbolt Crop Management](#) and [BerriesNW](#) sent out weekly during the growing season, and sporadically when we have something to share in the off season.

March 30, 2010

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Videos of the week:

- Working on a new raspberry. Wegman's markets and Cornell teaming up in New York State: [Click here](#).
 - Korvan Raspberry & Blueberry Harvesters for 2010: [Click here](#).
- [Photos of the week](#): Winter Moth/Spanworm feeding damage in blueberries.
[The Weather Cafe](#) by Rufus La Lone
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Spotted Wing Drosophila Comments

There's been a lot of media coverage lately about SWD, and I think it's important to keep things in perspective as individual growers and as an industry. We don't know what impact this insect will have on our livelihoods, but great resources have been devoted to managing this insect.

The state of Oregon and commodity commissions have committed emergency funding, and long-term projects have been organized and await the word on funding for full implementation. We've gotten incredible public research support for combating this pest from OSU, WSU, the USDA's Northwest Center for Small Fruit Research, the Oregon Department on Ag, the University of California, British Columbia researchers and our own commodity commissions.

As we go into the growing season we've got several things in place and gathering steam including:

- ongoing grower and public education/outreach efforts
- a public/private cooperative scouting and information dissemination system
- control/management trials
- strict quality controls being implemented

The industry as a whole remains committed to producing high value crops and products, and our customers need valid reassurance about the proactive commitment of our growers, industry and public research institutions. Consumers should have confidence that we are taking all preventative actions possible to maintain as well as improve the quality standards of our berry crops for years to come.

Tom Peerbolt

Degree Day Update

We are **way** ahead of the last two years...

Degree Day heat units accumulation comparison to 3/28/09 (41 degree minimum):

	2010	2009	2008
Forest Grove	564	279	280

Aurora(Research Station)	599	322	327
Corvallis (OSU)	526	304	266
Vancouver, WA	629	335	341
Prosser	370	212	274
Mt Vernon	582	187	230
Bellingham	494	155	192
Abbotsford	466	154	196

- For more detailed degree day/weather information, go to www.BerriesNW.com and click on the Thermometer icon on the right side.

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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.

Whatcom County, Northern Washington

- **Blueberries** (3/25/10): Rain up the gazoo here; shut everything down. Just about done with all the fertilizer on blues 1st time over. 2nd Indar and prebloom insecticide going out. Really watch for larvae in the fruit clusters.
- **Raspberries** (3/25/10): Just about done with all the fertilizer on raspberries 1st time over. They're greening up, but still lots of brown canes. I hope the buds are still alive. Watch for weevils and cutworms.
- **Strawberries:** (3/25/10) Strawberries showing some green now. We should start cultivating.

Skagit County, Northern Washington

- **Blueberries:**
 - (3/26/10) Blues are probably about 20 days ahead of last year. I'm guessing that will translate to about 6-7 days earlier for harvest. Cool, wet weather has helped put the brakes on (at least a little), and given all fungus type things a really good environment. Hey, without diseases, pests, and viruses...what would we do???? No span worms showing, no SWD's, and no disease pressure showing (for now). I don't see any damage from the recent cold nights, so things are looking pretty good. I think everyone has 1st fertilizer on, and all but the bloom sprays have been applied. Early bloom spays are coming, weather permitting, and some have 1st app finished.
 - (3/26/10) Very wet here last couple of days, stopped weed tillage in blues. Bloom sprays going on organic blueberries: Actinovate, Phytamin & Sticker. First round of fertilizer/humic acid root feeding done. Entrust cleaned up the worms pretty well, very little damage vs. last year. Put out a couple hundred SWD traps around farm perimeter, nothing showing up but a few aphids. Have four pairs of kestrels in the nest boxes this spring, best we've done. Don't know if they do any good, but they're a nice distraction for the various auditors we get through here. Bees are going out on early varieties. I think we are still 3 weeks ahead of '09.
- **Raspberries**(3/26/10) Raspberries don't seem to be all that far ahead of normal.
- **Blackberries:** Blacks look OK except for the Black Diamond and Nightfall. They just don't seem to like the early cold. Rodents are at full strength, and gaining ground (so to speak).

Willamette Valley, Oregon and SW Washington

- **Blueberries**
 - (3/26/10): Here in Salem, I finally got to dip into the weather data. Using a base of 50 degrees, we have more than double the heat units from Jan. to March 25 as 2009 or 2008. We've got several experiments out to see if we can delay our harvest dates. This will be a good year to test. The Bluegold is heavy with early shock symptoms. Let's

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](#)
[B.C. Blueberry Council](#)

- get this over with while the bushes are young. We're starting to trickle in the bees. Our beekeeper claims he had unprecedented bee kills while in California in the apricots. He suspects insecticide (he sent bee bodies to the lab).
- (3/29/10): Wet. Wet. Wet... We're coming into bloom now with Dukes at maybe 1%- 4% but this weather looks like it's around for a while. Getting Mummyberry and bloom sprays on will be a problem. Getting bees in might be if it goes on for a while.
 - **Raspberries:** (3/29/10): Getting drenched over the last couple of days. Looks like it'll be tough to even get in the fields for a while. Plant development is very good. Way ahead of schedule, which is concerning. And now it might be a while before we get back in the fields.
 - **Strawberries:** (3/29/10) Trusses are coming along in the June bearers. Albions have some sporadic bloom. Early, early season.

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Meetings

April 2—IPM Scouting Tools for Blueberry & Raspberry Production in Whatcom County, 9:30am. Boxx Berry Farm, Ferndale. WSU Whatcom County Extension. This is the first installment of a series of crop specific field sessions on pest identification, scouting and management appropriate to the current crop growth stage. A pest scouting guide for each crop will be provided. Please RSVP to Dan Coyne: dcoyne@wsu.edu or (360) 676-6736. Click [here](#) for more information.

April 14—Washington Red Raspberry Commission meeting~1-5pm at the WSU Puyallup Extension Center conference room. [Email](#) Henry Bierlink for more information at 360-354-8767.

April 21—Washington Blueberry Commission meeting~ TBA. Tri-cities. Call 503 364-2944 for more information.

April 27—Oregon Blueberry Commission Budget Preparation Budget Hearing meeting~ 12pm. Doaks Ferry Room, West Salem Roth's IGA, OR. Call 503 364-2944 for more information.

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Pest Alerts

- **Mummyberry blueberries**
 - If the field or adjacent fields have a history of Mummyberry infections, preventative applications should begin at green tip stage and continue through the end of bloom.
- **Winter Moth/ Bruce Spanworm blueberries:** Span worm larvae feeding on blueberry buds in Northern Washington and British Columbia are being reported.
- **Pseudomonas (Bacterial Blight) blueberries:** Buds in cankers die. If girdled, the cane portion above the canker dies. **Recommended management:** Copper sprays are recommended although many copper resistant strains of these bacteria have been identified. Serenade has shown some efficacy especially if used with a spreader-sticker. Serenade with Nu-film P is an organically approved option. Good coverage is essential with any of these applications.
- **Voles all berries:** Vole activity and damage is at very high levels in many berry fields. Management of voles is most effective now in the spring before they start multiplying. [Click here](#) for some background and biology information on voles (or meadow mice). [Click here](#) for information on how to construct bait stations.

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Industry News/Resources

- **Assessing Frost Freeze Damage to Blueberries:** [Click here](#). This is on the Michigan State site and gives great illustrations of various frost damage symptoms.

Newsletters

- **Market Newsletter:** *The Source for 3-29-10* [Click here](#) (from Produce News)

Northwest

- **Grower loses workers following ICE audit:** [Click here](#) (The Packer, 3/22)

National

- **Irradiation pitched as peach crop defense (against SWD):** [Click here](#) (3/23, Atlanta Journal-Constitution)

- **Bees in trouble after bad winter:** [Click here](#) (msnbc, 3/24)
- **(FL) Florida producing bumper late season strawberry crop:** [Click here](#) (The Packer, 3/25)
- **Health care reform law to spell higher costs for growers in 2014:** [Click here](#) (Produce News, 3/25)
- **USDA seeks comments on reallocation of the U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council membership:** [Click here](#) (tmcnet, 3/27)

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New Pest Management & IPM Information

Insects/Mites

- **[Spotted Wing Drosophila](#)** all berries:
 - **Newly Updated Oregon State SWD Website:** [Click here](#). This is the site that has the most comprehensive and up to date information and links. They're doing a great job. Bookmark it.
 - **Length and Magnitude of Fruit Cooling and Spotted Wing Drosophila Mortality:** [Click here](#) (Mark Bold's blog, UC, 3/23) Quote from Mark's article, "The take home message from this information is that while extended cooling can be suppressive of SWD, growers should not rely on cooling alone. It will still be important to manage SWD in field."
 - **There's a pest among us:** [Click here](#) (Newberg Graphic, 3/27)
 - (Video) **New fruit fly worries growers:** [Click here](#) (King 5, Seattle, 3/24)
- (SWD-Home gardener perspective-CA) **Dirt-flavored strawberries have two pests:** [Click here](#) (3/21, San Francisco Chronicle)

Diseases

- **[Shock virus](#)**, southern blueberries. Beginning symptoms are being reported in some fields.

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Ongoing Pest Management Information

Insects

- **[Alert: Winter Moth/ Bruce Spanworm](#)** blueberries: See alert section above.
- **[Raspberry Crown Borer](#)** caneberries
- **[Strawberry Crown Moth](#)** southern caneberries
- **[Clay Colored Weevils](#)** southern strawberries
- **[Leafroller larvae](#)** blueberries
- **[Redberry Mite](#)** evergreen blackberries

Diseases

- **[Alert: Pseudomonas \(Bacterial Blight\)](#)** blueberries: See alert section above.
- **[Alert: Mummyberry](#)** blueberries: See alert section above.
- **[Phytophthora Root Rot](#)** raspberries
- **[Blackberry Rust](#)** (Phragmidium Rust) Evergreen blackberries

Other Pest Species

- **[Alert: Voles](#):** See alert section above.

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Crop work

Blueberry fertilizer timing: We're getting to a traditional time for applying fertilizer. Many growers still apply the first application just before the buds break. Recent research shows the plant takes up very little nitrogen before late April. Recommended timing for split applications in the Willamette Valley is 1/3 in late April, 1/3 in mid-May and 1/3 in mid-June. Click on the link below for more information.

[Nutrient Management for Blueberries in Oregon](#) (16 pages).

All crops—

- Scout for voles and treat as needed.

- Can put out monitoring traps for Spotted Wing Drosophila.
- Weed management.
- Fertilizer program.

Blueberries—

- Scout for Winter Moth/Spanworm and treat as needed.
- Can apply Bacterial Blight (*Pseudomonas*) management materials.
- Scout for sprouting Mummyberries and treat as needed.
- Scout for leafroller larvae feeding.
- Plan for pre-bloom aphid control where Scorch virus transmission is an issue.
- Make preparations for bringing in bees around 10% bloom.

Blackberries—

- Scout for Purple Blotch lesions in Marionberries to assess field disease levels for later treatments.
- Can drench for crown borer management.

Evergreen Blackberries—

- Can apply a dormant spray of lime/sulfur or elemental sulfur in mid-February for Redberry Mites and Blackberry Rust.

Raspberries—

- Burn back primocanes as needed.
- Scout for Clay Colored Weevil feeding and treat as needed.
- Can apply Ridomil for Phytophthora root rot management.
- Can drench for crown borer management.
- Scout for Cane Blight and Cane Botrytis symptoms.

Strawberries—

- As plants start to grow, watch for weak growing areas and check rots for weevil larvae, root rot and/or cold damage.

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