

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.

April 6, 2010

Table of Contents

[Regional Reports](#)
[WA State SWD Meetings](#)
[Pest Alerts](#)
[Industry News/ Resources](#)
[New Pest Management Info](#)
[Ongoing Pest Management Info](#)
[CropWok](#)

Video of the week:

- **Wasting Strawberry Fields:** [Click here](#) (3/27, ABC News) This is about Florida growers dealing with a glut in their market and taking heat in the media because of it. [Click here](#) for the growers' response (3/31, The Packer). [Click here](#) for a balanced account (4/1, Produce News)

Photos of the week:

- **Native pollinators found in NW blueberries:** [Click here](#). The bumble bees shown here do a lot of our cool season pollinator work for us.
- **Michael Durham's SWD photos:** [Click here](#). These are amazing.
- **PCM's 2010 Field Scouts:** [Click here](#) & scroll down.

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

[Upcoming Meetings](#)

[Small Fruit Cold Storage Report](#)

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 (4/5/10)

- **Blueberries:** Just about all major varieties of blues seem to be in some stage of pink bud with the exception of Elliot. Although I did come across one field of Elliots in pink bud! Duke and Reka have some early bloom happening. Getting the first aphicides on. Actually, there are some pretty inventive tank mixes going on to save time and passes through some thoroughly wet fields. Lots of tough tractor work and some pretty chewed up alleyways.
- **Raspberries:** Raspberries are so-so. Saanich and Chemainus look strong. Meekers are quite variable in vigor. Weevil feeding has become pretty evident the last week, even with the cool weather. I think some of the less vigorous fields can attribute it to a history of mites last year and, to some extent, on-going weevil issues.

Whatcom County, Northern Washington (4/2/10):

- **Blueberries:** I guess this is normal NW spring weather. Wet and windy does not allow for much fieldwork. On the bright side, groundwater and snow levels must be approaching optimum. In the blues- I thought we'd be blooming by now, but they are in limbo. Lots of worm sprays and Indar last week. Got out a few SWD traps, no catches yet.
- **Raspberries:** Some fertilizing and cane burning going on in spite of the weather. Older fields leafing out slowly after an early start. Some reports of weevil feeding. Continue to watch for weevils and cutworms.

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](#)

- **Strawberries:** Strawberries are greening up finally but too wet to get in the fields.

Skagit County, Northern Washington (4/2/10)

- **Blueberries:** Quite a few bees active Wednesday in the 60F sunny weather. Root feed drench on organic blues is done. Fertigation started on Earlyblue and Rekas. No SWD in the traps yet.
- **Strawberries:** Most of our strawberries cut in now (narrowed down the rows).
- **Raspberries:** Cane burning in raspberries ongoing until yesterday's wind shut us down.
- **Blackberries:** Second round of lime sulfur down on the blacks.

Willamette Valley, Oregon and SW Washington

- **Blueberries (4/2/10):** At Salem we had a wind event (21 mph) the early morning of the 29th that removed some leaf buds; however, hardly any flower clusters fell. We dodged some good sized hail on the 30th. If forecasts of 40 mph winds come to pass today, it may be a problem. Bluegold is at ~50% bloom while Bluejay and Rubel are approaching 10%. The remaining varieties just show scattered bloom. Many hives are in the field now, but the bees have logged little flight time with the rain and cold. We have been talking to our adjacent neighbors about coordinating our SWD sprays. It may make sense to do it this way with ground sprays. It certainly makes sense to coordinate for the aerial work. My colleague took me steelhead fishing on the Cowlitz. Six fish in the boat! A very good day. Sorry, I had to brag about this one!
- **Raspberries: (4/3/10)** Some flower buds showing. Cane burning and fertilizer are mostly done. As with the rest of the crops, they've pretty much come to a standstill as far as new growth happening. Time to give back some of those degree days. Yellow Rust is shifting from the black overwintering spores (teliospores) into the reddish blister stage (spermagonia). Some phosphite foliar applications are going on for phytophthora root rot.
- **Strawberries: (4/3/10)** Scattered blooms are showing up in some of the older fields. A few more of those 60 to 70 degree days, and we would've been pushing 10% bloom in the earliest fields. As it is, might be a couple of weeks before that happens.

[Click here](#) to go back to the top of this newsletter.

Spotted Wing Drosophila Workshops for Washington State Growers and Industry

WSU Extension Meetings

- **April 22—Lynden,** 9-noon, Fire District # 3 meeting room, 307 19th Street, Lynden. RSVP to [Colleen Burrows](#) (360)-676-6736. See [the flyer](#) for more details.
- **April 28—Vancouver,** 9-noon, WSU REU Vancouver. 1919 NE 78th Street, Vancouver, WA. RSVP to [Todd Murray](#) (360) 428-4270 ext.225. Check [the flyer](#) for contact information and subjects to be covered.
- **April 30—Mount Vernon,** 9-noon, Mt. Vernon Research & Extension Center. 16650 State Route 536, Mt. Vernon, WA. RSVP to [Don McMoran](#) (253) 798-7028. See [the flyer](#) for more details.
- **May 6—WSU Grower Workshop,** 9-noon, WSU Puyallup Research and Extension Center. 7612 Pioneer Way, Puyallup, RSVP to [Chris Benedict](#) (253) 798-7028).

[Click here](#) to go back to the top of this newsletter.

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**
 - **[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. Use caution applying copper too close to bloom as damage can occur.
 - 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.

[Click here](#) to go back to the top of this newsletter.

Industry News/Resources

Newsletters

- Michigan State's Fruit CAT Alert Newsletter for 4/6/10: [Click here.](#)
- Michigan State Blueberry Newsletter for 4-6-10: [Click here.](#)
- New Jersey Blueberry Bulletin for 3/29/10: [Click here.](#)
- Market Newsletter: *The Source* for 4-5-10 [Click here.](#) (from Produce News)

Northwest

- Oregon pear growers sour on land law: [Click here](#) (4/2, The Wall Street Journal) Fascinating analysis of the unintended consequences of Oregon land use laws on fruit growers and companies including Harry & David.
- Sakuma Bros. Fruit adds sales manager: [Click here](#) (3/30, The Packer)
- Farm jobs a good bet in Washington: [Click here](#) (4/1, Everett Herald)

National

- USDA offers to purchase frozen cultivated blueberries: [Click here.](#) Offers are due by April 20th.
- Ariel Laboratories unleashes the antioxidant benefits of blueberries in inspired personal care formulations: [Click here](#) (3/3, Yahoo News)
- Do anti-cancer superfoods really work? [Click here](#) (3/31, MSN News)
- Florida: SunnyRidge Farms opens distribution center, grows organic blueberries: [Click here](#) (3/30, The Ledger)
- Naturipe hires blackberry, raspberry manager: [Click here](#) (4/5, The Packer)

International

- New request for bankruptcy by Argentine berry companies: [Click here](#) (3/24, FreshPlaza.com)
- Chile: Ag exports hit by earthquake: [Click here](#) (3/30, Santiago Times)
- New Zealand: Blueberries may protect muscles from exercise damage: [Click here](#) (4/2, NutraIngredients.com)

[Click here](#) to go back to the top of this newsletter.

New Pest Management & IPM Information

Insects/Mites

- [Spotted Wing Drosophila](#) all berries:
 - Australia: Government announcement of a pest risk analysis of SWD for Australia: [Click here](#) (3/31)
 - WSU Extension Press Release: SWD could pose a threat for Washington fruit growers: [Click here](#) (3/30)
 - Useful link for Understanding Economic impact of SWD: [Click here](#) (3/29, Mark Bolda's Blog)
 - Crowd of Oregon farmers, scientists gather to battle invading fruit flies: [Click here](#) (3/30, Oregonian)
 - New pest spurs funding efforts: [Click here](#) (4/3, Capital Press)
- [Strawberry Crown Moth](#), southern strawberries: Larvae are now being recovered from the crowns of strawberry plants in some SW Washington fields.
- [Root Weevils](#), southern strawberries: Larvae of [Black Vine](#), [Rough Strawberry](#), [Strawberry Root Weevils](#) are now being recovered from some strawberry fields.
- [Aphids/Scorch virus](#), northern blueberries: Pre bloom aphid control is strongly recommended in blueberry fields infected with or in close proximity to fields infected with [Scorch virus](#). **This disease is most prevalent in B.C.**
- [Blueberry Gall Midge](#), southern blueberries: The first Gall Midge feeding symptoms have been found this week in a southern blueberry field. This is about the time when the first generation of adults should be emerging from the soil.
- [Light Brown Apple Moth](#), potential issue for NW berry growers: The larva of this moth is indistinguishable from orange tortrix larva. It's also become the center of a huge political controversy involving quarantines, various government agencies and grower groups. We don't want this one here! [Click here](#) (Mark Bolda's blog).

Diseases

- [Yellow Rust](#), southern raspberries: The transition from the overwintering, black spore stage (teliospores) to the yellow, slightly raised blister-like spots on new leaves (spermogonia) is now just beginning to be seen in Oregon fields.

[Click here](#) to go back to the top of this newsletter.

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
- [Shock virus](#), southern blueberries. Symptoms are visible in many fields.

[Click here](#) to go back to the top of this newsletter.

Crop work

All crops—

- 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.
- Bring in bees around 10-15% bloom.

Blackberries—

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

Evergreen Blackberries—

- Can apply a delayed 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.
- Scout for Cane Blight and Cane Botrytis symptoms.

Strawberries—

- As plants start to grow, watch for weak growing areas and scout for weevil larvae, Strawberry Crown Moth larvae, root rots and/or cold damage.

[Click here](#) to go back to the top of this newsletter.