

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 13, 2010

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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.

British Columbia, Fraser Valley (4/12/10)

Last week was a week to forget. Hail and snow on Thursday in the Fraser Valley, cold days and nights, frost on Saturday morning (- 2 to -3 C) and wind for the last 3 days that isn't allowing for much spraying.

- **Blueberries:** We're trying to get an aphicide on before the bees get active in the blues. Combining it with a fungicide to protect the early blooms as well. If we get some heat this week, a lot of flowers will be popping by next weekend. We're still ahead of time (development-wise) but need a break from Mother Nature. Soil is cold and wet, and we really need things to warm up.
- **Raspberries:** Raspberries have seen the first application of fertilizer, but you wouldn't know it by looking at them. Meekers look yellow and slow. Once again weather is the answer. Seeing considerable weevil activity, and I noticed the first Yellow Rust pustules on some Meekers.

Whatcom County, Northern Washington (4/8/10):

Rain, hail, wet snow and wind today, brrrrrrrrrrrr. Plant development has slowed, allowing the bugs to catch up. Expected to be colder the next 2 nights.

- **Blueberries:** Blueberries still approaching early bloom. We should get the bees in next week.
- **Raspberries:** Finding mites and clay weevil in the raspberries (check the mass of canes and leaves where tied to the top wire).
- **Strawberries:** Finding some cutworms in the strawberries- hard to see from the coffee shop; you actually have to get out in the fields.

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](#)

Willamette Valley, Oregon and SW Washington

- **Blueberries** (4/9/10): At Salem, we completed our first bloom spray on April 7th. Bloom ranged from 2% to 40% with most varieties at 5% to 10% bloom. Fertilizer arrived on the 9th, and we got the spreader calibrated today. Wild Geranium recovered from an earlier broadcast spray of Callisto and Gramoxone; so, a quick spot spray of Rely 200 is in the works.
- **Raspberries** (4/13/10): Other than the slower growth due to the recent cool, wet weather; the fields look very good. Phosphite applications are going on. Still some cane burning. Ran into a Spur Blight problem in a new Chemainus field. Rust development is moving along, and the recent weather should favor any fungal disease problems. Blossom clusters are pushing.
- **Blackberries** (4/13/10): Good budbreak in most fields. No major problems at this point. If we weren't talking about Spotted Wing Drosophila, don't know what we'd be doing. We're heading into warm and somewhat wet weather—make sure primocanes in Marions have a fungicide to protect them from Purple Blotch infections.
- **Strawberries** (4/11/10): Pretty decent looking fields overall. A few days of warm weather and the first flush of bloom could push out fast. Right now just scattered bloom in the early cultivars and in weaker, older fields. Root rot, weevil larvae, crown moth larvae, even some winter killed crowns—Oh boy!

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Meetings

WSU Extension Workshops on Spotted Wing Drosophila

- **April 22—Lynden**, 9am-12pm. 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**, 9am-12pm. 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**, 9am-12pm. 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**, 9am-12pm. WSU Puyallup Research and Extension Center. 7612 Pioneer Way, Puyallup, RSVP to [Chris Benedict](#) (253) 798-7028).

OSU Extension Workshops on Spotted Wing Drosophila

These workshops, free and open to the public, are for assisting homeowners and growers of fruit crops with identification and management of this new insect pest. For more information, call the OSU Polk County Extension office at 503-623-8395.

- **April 26—Salem**, Salem Electric meeting room, 633 7th Street NW, 7-8:30pm.
- **May 12—Dallas**, Academy Building, Room 212, 182 SW Academy Street.

OSU Schedule for Upcoming Field Days at North Willamette Research & Extension Station

For now—this is 'get it on the calendar' information. Details and agendas will available soon. If you do have comments or questions, contact Dr. Bernadine Strik, OSU Berry Crops Specialist—email: strikb@hort.oregonstate.edu, 541-737-5434.

- **June 9**—Strawberry Open House
- **June 30**—Caneberry Open House
- **July 14**—Blueberry Open House

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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](#)**

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Industry News/Resources

Newsletters

- **New Jersey Blueberry Bulletin** for 4/5/10: [Click here](#).

Northwest

- **Blueberry packing plant being built in Grandview (WA):** [Click here](#) (4/7, TriCity Herald)
- **California blueberry commission launches amid record crop expectations:** [Click here](#) (4/9, The Produce News)

National

- **Surplus of Strawberries keeps prices low:** [Click here](#) (4/9, Fruit Grower News)
- **CA: Strawberry growers get food safety kudos:** [Click here](#) (4/1, GrowingProduce.com)
- **Hashing out H-2A:** [Click here](#) (3/30, GrowingProduce.com)
- **Safety audits need oversight/harmonization:** [Click here](#) (4/12, The Packer) This is regarding all the different/competing certifying audit systems.
- **Guimarra VBM adds Mississippi blueberry grower:** [Click here](#) (4/12, The Packer)

International

- **Driscoll's in joint venture for Australia:** [Click here](#) (4/10, The Californian)

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New Pest Management & IPM Information

Insects/Mites

- **Spotted Wing Drosophila** all berries:
 - **Australia: Fruit imports from U.S. doubts:** [Click here](#) (3/31, Weekly Times Now (AUS))
 - **California Dept. of Food & Ag. factsheet (with map of CA detections):** [Click here](#)
 - **European Plant Protection Org. factsheet:** [Click here](#)
- **March Flies**, incidental insect: This 'fly' clogs up our field insect traps and is everywhere this time of year.
- **Emerging Potential Pest: European grapevine moth:** [Click here](#) "Famed winegrape region quarantined"- another insect to keep an eye on for Northwest berry crops.

Diseases

- **Scorch virus, British Columbia blueberries:** There are reports of virus symptoms beginning to be show up in B.C. fields. The Blueberry Council is again providing free scorch and shock virus testing to all B.C. blueberry growers. Bloom is the best time to look for symptoms. [Click here](#) for the sample submission form. [Click here](#) for the sampling instructions. Call or email Sonja Ring, the Council's research coordinator, for information.
- **Spur Blight, raspberries:** A new planting of Chemainus in Oregon is showing a significant level of dead buds from Spur Blight. Meeker is tolerant of this disease. Some of the newer cultivars may not be.
- **Downey Mildew, boysenberries, Kotata blackberries (occasionally other blackberries):** This is a systemic disease that only displays symptoms if environmental conditions are right in the spring. It can cause major losses due to misshapen berries. A distinctive red leaf pattern is also diagnostic of the disease. Phosphite applications in the spring are recommended to prevent outbreaks.

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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
- **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

Diseases

- [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, blueberries](#): Symptoms are visible in many fields.
- [Yellow Rust, southern raspberries](#): The transition from the overwintering, black spore stage (teliospores) to the yellow, slightly raised blister-like spots on new leaves (spermagonia) is being seen in Oregon fields.

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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.
- Scout for virus symptoms & send in samples for testing as needed.
- Bring in bees around 10-15% bloom.

Blackberries—

- Scout for Purple Blotch lesions in Marion berries to assess field disease levels for later treatments.
- Burn back primocanes as needed.
- Can apply phosphite material for Downey Mildew prevention in Boysens and Kotatas.
- Scout for virus symptoms & send in samples for testing 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.
- Can apply a phosphite material for stronger root growth and root rot prevention.
- Scout for virus symptoms & send in samples for testing as needed.

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.
- Prepare for bloom in the South. At 10% bloom, can apply a fungicide for fruit/blossom rot.
- Can apply a phosphite material for stronger root growth and root rot prevention.
- Can till row centers and/or narrow down the matted rows.
- Can apply slug bait.

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Archived Small Fruit Updates

These are Small Fruit Updates from the last month (for older Updates [click here](#))

[04-06-10](#)

[03-30-10](#)

[03-23-10](#)

[03-16-10](#)

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