

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 20, 2010

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Video of the Week: Blueberries fight aggressive breast cancer [Click here](#) (4/15, KABC-TV Los Angeles)
Photos of the Week: Shock virus symptoms now showing up in many blueberry fields. [Click here.](#)
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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 (4/19/10):

- **Blueberries:** Bees are being brought into the blueberry fields now and floral fungicide programs are about to get under way in earnest if the weather co-operates. Still running about 2 weeks ahead of the norm, I think. A bit of frost injury to newly emerged Duke leaves and some minor blossom damage appears to be all we suffered from the frost and cold snap a week ago.
- **Raspberries:** Lots of Clay Colored Weevil activity in the raspberries. They seem especially numerous this year. Unfortunately, we're running out of things to throw at them, unlike the situation south of the line. Two-spotted Spider Mite populations starting to build and have started treating for adults and eggs where it looks risky. Really taking a hard line on mite control given what we may be doing later for SWD control.

Whatcom County, Northern Washington (4/16/10):

- **Blueberries:** 1st bloom fungicide starting in the blues.
- **Raspberries:** Clay weevil problems in the raspberries. Soil drying out a bit. 1st time cane burning done. Some leaf feeds going on to green up the yellow leaves.
- **Strawberries:** Strawberries struggling to grow, no fruit spurs showing yet. Still battling cutworms.

Skagit County, Northern Washington (4/19/10):

- **Blueberries:** Blueberries are coming on fast now. Bee's out and about, and (so far) no sign of the previous year's, still undiagnosed "shock"-like symptoms in the fields that were so affected last year.
- **Raspberries:** Raspberries have been the slowest of the 3 major berry crops, but are moving now.

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 moving strong into bloom.

Willamette Valley, Oregon and SW Washington:

- **Blueberries:**
 - (4/16/10) Great pollination weather here in the Salem area. Bloom appears to be progressing steadily now that warmer weather has come but no varieties are beyond 50% flower yet. We are cleaning up wild blackberry patches in an effort to reduce SWD habitat on both our property and our neighbors.
 - (4/19/10) Warm weather the past few days has things really moving along. Here in Aurora, we are at full bloom on Bluegold and Legacy and very close to full bloom on Bluejay and Reka. Duke, Bluecrop, Liberty, Ozarkblue and some Draper and Aurora are at 5% bloom.
- **Raspberries** (4/19/10): Came out fast early this year and then, when we cooled off, the plants seemed to really yellow and still show some of that. With this warm weather we should be greening up again. Phosphite and foliar nutrient applications going on. Cane burning pretty much done. Yellow Rust is showing up in some fields.
- **Blackberries**
 - (4/20/10): With the warmer weather making things grow, cold damage in Marions and Silvans is evident. It is too early to tell the impact on overall crop size, but several fields have been cut down and others are considering it. Thinking harvest will start the last week in June or about a week ahead of normal.
 - (4/20/10): Seemed too good to be true that we'd get away with those single digit temps in December and no damage. Laterals that have pushed out a couple of inches are dying back. We'll need some more warm weather and growth pushes to be able to assess how much damage is out there. Silvans could show some bloom as early as next week.
- **Strawberries** (4/16/10): Trusses and flower buds are coming along with some fields hitting 10% this week. Timing looks pretty normal for strawberries at this point. We're looking at harvest starting sometime in early June.

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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. 7-8:30pm.

IPM Scouting Tools for Blueberry & Raspberry Production in Whatcom County During Bloom

- **May 7—**WSU Whatcom County Extension, 9:30am–12pm. This is the second installment of a series of crop specific field sessions on pest identification, scouting and field management appropriate to the current crop growth stage. Please RSVP to Dan Coyne: dcoyne@wsu.edu or (360) 676-6736. Click [here](#) for more information. Location: Boxx Berry Farm, 6211 Northwest Road, Ferndale, WA.

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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

- **The Source**, marketing news from The Produce News for 4/19/10: [Click here](#).
- **British Columbia Blueberry IPM Report** for 4/16/10: [Click here](#).
- **Fruit News from Michigan State University** for 4/14/10: [Click here](#).
- **Blueberry Newsletter from Michigan State University** for 4/14/10: [Click here](#).
- **New Jersey Blueberry Bulletin** for 4/12/10: [Click here](#).

National

- **Organic, local farms get a boost from USDA:** [Click here](#) (4/15, San Francisco Chronicle)
- **Farmers gain in senate food safety battle:** [Click here](#) (4/15, Food Safety News)
- **Food safety amendments seek breaks for smaller growers:** [Click here](#) (4/16, The Packer)
- **New Jersey: Warm weather has blueberries blooming early in Atlantic County:** [Click here](#) (4/12, Atlantic City Press)

International

- **International strawberry congress registration started:** [Click here](#) (FreshPlaza)

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Control Material Information

- **Copper products, characteristics, and uses:** [Click here](#) (Michigan State) Excellent review of formulations and brand specific information in a table format along with Bordeaux mixing directions.

New Pest Management & IPM Information

Insects/Mites

- **Spotted Wing Drosophila** all berries:
 - **Comments from British Columbia:** SWD trapping is now going on in earnest in the Fraser Valley. While we're catching other Drosophila spp., no SWD have been caught yet.
- **Clay Colored Weevils northern raspberries:** Reports are of serious problems with this weevil in northern raspberries right now. It emerges much earlier than other weevil species and feeds on newly emerging laterals, girdling and killing them.
- **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.** 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.

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Ongoing Pest Management Information

Insects

- **Alert: Winter Moth/ Bruce Spanworm** blueberries
- **Raspberry Crown Borer** caneberries
- **Strawberry Crown Moth** southern caneberries
- **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.
- **Blueberry Gall Midge**, southern blueberries

Diseases

- **Pseudomonas (Bacterial Blight)** blueberries
- **Alert: Mummyberry** blueberries: See alert section above.
- **Phytophthora Root Rot** raspberries

- [Blackberry Rust \(Phragmidium Rust\)](#) Evergreen blackberries
- [Shock virus](#), blueberries
- [Scorch virus](#), British Columbia blueberries: [Click here](#) for the sampling instructions. Call (604) 613-2133 or email [Sonja Ring](#), the Council's research coordinator, for information.
- [Spur Blight](#), raspberries
- [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.
- [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—

- Can apply fungicide for prevention of Purple Blotch in Marions.
- 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 Yellow Rust and assess treatment options.
- 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](#))

[04-13-10](#)

[04-06-10](#)

[03-30-10](#)

[03-23-10](#)