

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.

May 4, 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

• Blueberries:

- (5/3/10) Just lousy weather for pollination continues in the Fraser Valley. It's about 43 F right now (May 3), and we just had a hail storm go through. Pollination of blues is the main concern right now with very poor flying weather for bees all last week. Fungicide spraying is very difficult. Saw some secondary Mummyberry infection last week just to add complications.
- (5/4/10) We got tons of corollas falling but not a single entire bloom. Wind and extreme cold for the time of year keeps all pollinators inside, not even bumble bees came out yesterday and so far today. We are getting much rubbing of leaves and new shoots. Dead leaves and fallen entire new shoots are now common. The fields have standing water; there is no hope to apply any sprays. We have two cool but sunny days coming, possibly some wind though. Duke and Reka through 100% in Easter Fraser Valley, Bluecrop now at near 100%. About half of that in the Western sections.

- **Raspberries:** (5/3/10) Growth is accelerating in spite of the weather. Yellow Rust is becoming an increasingly visible danger with the wet cool conditions, however. Fruitworm (Raspberry beetle) sprays set to go on in the next week if the wind will settle down. Weevils (clay coloured) are still very active. It's been a tremendous season for these guys so far this spring.

- **Strawberries:** (5/4/10) Strawberry bloom much delayed now, flowers are not daring to open. Have 30% bloom on Nisga'a and 20% in Totem in the eastern Fraser Valley. Plenty root rot in that crop and this weather is going to exacerbate it.

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](#)

Whatcom County, Northern Washington

- **Blueberries:**

- (5/3/10) Ditto, ditto, ditto (*on the Fraser Valley comments*). We just got the hail as well as the wind switched from SW to NE. 38 degrees predicted tonight in Bellingham should mean frost for us. Should be getting the next round of dry fertilizer on the blues and raspberries real soon.
- (5/4/10) Lots and lots of bloom on the ground after all the wind, hail, sleet, and yes- even 10 minutes of snow. A 40 degree rain coming down as I write this. As we continue to give back all those extra degree days we earned early in the year so that we can meet our average in the first six months, I can be found in the tavern. I should pass along pictures of that...

- **Strawberries:** (5/3/10) Strawberries about to bloom, the hail probably notched a few early blossoms. The good news is, well I guess I can't think of any.

Skagit County, Northern Washington

(5/3/10) *Today's winds were really hard on our tunnels. We figured on strong winds from the south, but these came directly from the west. We lost the plastic on three, and bent hoops on two. Pretty exciting times out there wrestling plastic in the wind!*

(5/4/10) *We also lost plastic on two of the Haygrove's tunnels. Normally we open up the sides but with the west wind we were afraid it would lift them. Almost an inch of rain in 24 hrs.*

- **Blueberries:** (5/4/10) some leafrollers showing in the Elliots. Ended up re-spraying the fungicides due to rain. Mummyberry in Reka's pretty bad despite weed mat installation, which we hoped would reduce infection from apothecia. Cream-colored, powdery mold developing on the blighted tissues from the wet conditions.

Willamette Valley, Oregon and SW Washington

- **Blueberries:** (5/3/10) Bee activity up until this week has been fantastic. Probably will slow down with cooler weather here right now. There's been an increase in visible blossom Botrytis and secondary Mummyberry hits. Still looks darn good for crop potential. A little worried about the crops all (except strawberries) coming so early.
- **Blackberries:** (5/3/10) Marionberry and other blackberry fields are showing a wide variation from beautiful looking fields to fields with very significant cold damage. It makes it very difficult to figure out the overall crop size. If they all looked good or all looked bad there would be something concrete to base it on. Evergreens look good at this point, no obvious cold damage. There might be a bloom here and there in Marions this week. There is an occasional bloom in Kotatas and Black Diamonds, Silvans maybe 10% bloom. I have been telling the processing plant crew to be ready about two weeks ahead of normal start dates, but the cooler weather this week could push us back some.
- **Black raspberries:** (4/30/10) there wasn't great profit potential for this crop to begin with, but it looks like a lot more root rot than normal is taking even a bigger bite out of the potential yields. Not a great year.
- **Strawberries:** (5/3/10) Bloom is coming, but the lack of any real warm weather is making it a slow motion bloom. Don't know what that'll mean for picking, but no big flushes of bloom so far and none will be coming this next week. Fields farthest ahead are on their second bloom spray this week. Harvest still looking like it'd start around the 8th to 10th of June. More root rot than normal is taking out some fields or parts of them.

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Spotted Wing Drosophila Update

The berry and cherry crops in California are now picking and the main Oregon strawberry crop will start coloring up soon. As far as the preparations for our latest potential pest, Spotted Wing Drosophila, goes, we're quickly moving past the workshop and education phase and into the beginnings of actual field management.

Reports: The reports out of California are mixed. I've heard some reliable but still unverified (to me) reports of infested blueberries in the central coast counties. However, trap counts in the fresh market strawberries and raspberries in that region remain low. Our own trapping in Central Willamette Valley up into Southwest Washington also remain very low with just sporadic catches here and there of some of the over-wintering flies. Enough to know they're out there.

Monitoring: Thanks to the Oregon Department of Ag, the Washington berry commissions, the USDA's Northwest Center for Small Fruit Research, and our own clients, PCM is now monitoring over 150 fields. We're still making arrangements with other growers and public personnel for collecting and disseminating trap monitoring numbers from other areas as well as planning to link to other information collection sources to give you as comprehensive a picture as possible.

Trap design: Due to the difficulty of verifying the female flies, OSU and USDA entomologists (Amy Dreves, Vaughn Walton, Jana Lee, and Denny Bruck) met yesterday and altered the trap design. These changes have been made so that

researchers can identify the females better. Those of you using sticky cards to count the males should continue to do so. Here are the changes:

- 1) No yellow sticky card.
- 2) Pure (not artificial) apple cider vinegar (~2 inches) with a drop of soap to reduce surface tension.
- 3) Empty contents weekly into a labeled container and bring back to lab to ID. Filter and Review contents. Distinguish SWD females (serrated and distinct ovipositor) and SWD males (spot on certain location on wing).

Identification: Those of you with your own traps need to be careful with identification of your catches. The males present some problems (black spots on the wings and black 'chevrons' on the front legs), but the females are the major issue and have presented California and Oregon entomologists and extension personnel with challenges and unexpected 'look alikes'.

Websites:

- **Peerbolt Crop Management:** We've begun regularly updating our SWD website at www.peerbolt.com/swd with recent trap counts. The BerriesNW site (www.berriesNW.com) also has links and information.
- **Oregon State University:** OSU has a central clearinghouse site (<http://swd.hort.oregonstate.edu/>) with a lot of SWD information and the latest research.
- **Washington State University:** WSU is also posting recommendations and ongoing SWD information. (<http://www.mountvernon.wsu.edu/ENTOMOLOGY/pests/SWD.html>).
- **University of California:** U.C. Berry Extension agent, Mark Bolda has an excellent blog with SWD information (http://ucanr.org/blogs/strawberries_caneberries/), and UC IPM has information and management guidelines at <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/r71300711.html>.

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Meetings

[Click here](#) to go to the larger industry calendar.

- **May 6—WSU Extension Workshop on Spotted Wing Drosophila**, 9am-12pm. WSU Puyallup Research and Extension Center. 7612 Pioneer Way, Puyallup, RSVP to [Chris Benedict](mailto:Chris.Benedict@wsu.edu) (253) 798-7028).
- **May 7—IPM Scouting Tools for Blueberry & Raspberry Production in Whatcom County During Bloom**, WSU Whatcom County Extension, 9:30am–12pm. 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.
- **May 11—Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission meeting**~ 5:30pm. Budget hearing and regular meeting. Langdon Farms Golf Club, Aurora, OR. Dinner provided. Call 541-758-4043 or email [Philip Gutt](mailto:Philip.Gutt@oregonberry.com) for more information.
- **May 12—OSU Extension Workshop on Spotted Wing Drosophila**~ Academy Building, Room 212, 182 SW Academy Street, Dallas, Or. 7-8:30pm. *For more information, call the OSU Polk County Extension office at 503-623-8395.*
- **May 13—Oregon Strawberry Commission meeting**~ 6pm. West Salem Roth's IGA, OR. Call 503 364-2944 for more information. Budget meeting is at 5:30pm.

Advanced Notice-- meetings of interest outside the Northwest

- **June 2-3— 2010 MRL Workshop:** [Click here](#) (4/29, Western Farm Press) Organized by the California Specialty Crops Council (CSCC), it'll be in San Francisco. MRL's (Maximum Residue Levels) have become an increasingly critical issue for exporting Northwest berry products.
- **November 4-6— Mexico's Second National Berry Congress:** [Click here](#) (It's in Spanish). Zamora, Michoacán, Mexico.

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Industry News/Resources

Newsletters

- **The Source**, marketing news from The Produce News for 5/03/10: [Click here](#).
- **British Columbia Blueberry IPM Newsletter** for 4/30/10: [Click here](#).
- **New Jersey Blueberry Bulletin** for 4/26/10: [Click here](#).

National

- **Organic, small farmers fret over FDA (Food Safety) regulation:** [Click here](#) (4/27, S.F. Chronicle)
- **Survey: Honeybee losses continue to mount:** [Click here](#) (5/3, GrowingProduce.com)

- **USDA announces produce purchases for school nutrition program:** [Click here](#) (4/30, The Packer) It includes \$1.1 million in blackberries and \$7 million in strawberries.
- **New Arizona immigration law could aggravate labor shortages:** [Click here](#) (4/29, Produce News)
- **How farmers test technology:** [Click here](#) (4/30, Delta Farm Press)
- **Ag industry gears up for population growth:** [Click here](#) (4/30, Western Farm Press)

International

- **British berries benefit from warm weather:** [Click here](#) (4/30, The Telegraph)

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Control Material Information

- **California: State moves to end use of methyl bromide:** [Click here](#) (5/2, The Daily Democrat)
- **California proposes Methyl Iodide (Midas) registration:** [Click here](#) (5/3, GrowingProduce.com)

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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.

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New Pest Management & IPM Information

Insects/Mites

- **[Spotted Wing Drosophila](#) all berries:** Oregon state researchers win grant to battle destructive: [Click here](#) (4/29, Oregonian)
- **[Raspberry Beetle](#), northern raspberries.** This small beetle can cause fruit damage and be a major contaminant in northern raspberry fields.
- **[Twospotted Spider Mites](#), northern raspberries.**
- **[Yellow Mites](#), northern raspberries.**
- **Spittlebugs:** [Click here](#) As usual, these guys are showing up in southern strawberries about now and will be an issue, depending on weather, throughout harvest mainly as a 'picker deterrent'.
- **Root Weevils, southern strawberries:** Root weevil pupae are now being recovered as well as larvae in southern strawberry fields. Even got a couple of adult Black Vine. After emergence, it takes about 30 days before an adult (and they're all female) begins laying eggs. So treatments for the adults should take place before that 30 day window is up but after sizable amount have emerged. Monitoring the larvae and pupae development is the best way to know the status of these pests. It's also very time consuming and difficult to quantify. For more information click on the following: [Black Vine](#), [Rough Strawberry](#), and [Strawberry Root Weevils](#).
- **[Azalea Bark Scale](#), blueberries:** This scale's telltale bright white egg sacs on the lower branches of infested plants are becoming more apparent in some southern blueberry fields.

Diseases

- **Spring rains bring on Phytophthora rot of strawberry fruit in Watsonville and Salinas:** [Click here](#) (Mark Bolda, U.C. Extension blog). This is a fruit disease sometimes called leather rot. [Click here](#) for leather rot information.
- **[Alternaria Fruit Rot](#), southern blueberries:** As blueberry bloom starts to finish in Oregon and SW Washington, it's time to consider whether you need to prevent Alternaria and Anthracnose problems from showing up in the fruit. Alternaria can infect the fruit beginning at the end of bloom and throughout the fruit development stage, up until harvest. Infections remain latent until the fruit ripens. Infected fruits exhibit a shriveling or caving-in of the side of the berry and can become watery in storage.
- **[Anthracnose Ripe Rot](#), southern blueberries:** If you've had problems with Anthracnose, prevention of a reoccurrence needs to begin at petal fall. Symptoms: First, blighting of shoot tips; then, a few flowers turn brown or black. Leaf spots, when they occur, are large or small and roughly circular. As infected berries ripen, the flower end may soften and pucker. Under warm and rainy conditions, salmon-colored spore masses form on infected berries. After harvest, spore masses form rapidly on infected fruit when in cellophane-covered baskets or in plastic clamshell packs.

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Ongoing Pest Management Information

Insects

- [Clay Colored Weevils](#) northern raspberries
- [Aphids/Scorch virus](#), northern blueberries: 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.
- [Winter Moth/ Bruce Spanworm](#) blueberries
- [Leafroller larvae](#) blueberries
- [Redberry Mite](#) evergreen blackberries
- [Strawberry Crown Moth](#), southern strawberries
- [Blueberry Gall Midge](#), blueberries

Diseases

- [Yellow Rust](#), raspberries
- [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.
- [Spur Blight](#), raspberries
- [Downy Mildew](#), boysenberries, Kotata blackberries (occasionally other blackberries)

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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.
- Scout for scale insects.
- Scout for weevil notching.
- Scout for virus symptoms & send in samples for testing as needed.
- Bring in bees by 10-15% bloom.
- After petal fall, can treat for alternaria and anthracnose prevention if needed.

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 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—

- Watch for weak growing areas and scout for weevil larvae, strawberry crown moth larvae, root rots and/or cold damage.

- Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to confirm.
- At 10% bloom, can apply a fungicide for fruit/blossom rot.
- Can apply a phosphite material for stronger root growth and root rot prevention.
- Scout for weevil adults and notching (South).

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Archived Small Fruit Updates

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

[04-27-10](#)

[04-20-10](#)

[04-13-10](#)

[04-06-10](#)