

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.

June 15, 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:** (6/15) Experiencing some green fruit rot in the blues and really don't need any more showery, warm weather as we're just on the edge of keeping things under control. It's getting harder to get into mature fields every day without banging fruit around. Aphicides pretty well on or will be this week and, in some cases, the 5th fungicide application.
- **Raspberries:** (6/15) Not sure what that big yellow ball in the sky was over the weekend and today, but it was warm and pleasant, and I think we should keep it. Raspberries are progressing quickly now. Malahats starting to pick and early red berries in Meekers. Lots more growth than expected but still a short crop, I believe. Rust is holding off and mites are present but at low levels in most fields. Had to treat about 10-15% for pre-harvest control in the acres I work with. Who knows what the situation will be after we take on SWD for a few weeks.

Willamette Valley, Oregon and SW Washington

- **Blackberries:** (6/15) Poor pollination is a definite issue in Marions. It varies from field to field, but in some as much as 25% of the fruit will not be harvested because of poor development or no berry at all. There are rare fields where pollination looks good; maybe different bees? Cold damage from the winter, cool and wet spring, pollination problems- all we need now is 100 degrees and SWD and the season will be complete. Some growers are spraying for rust in

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](#)

evergreens, both in the up and down fields, mainly fields where it has been a serious problem in the past. I don't look at that many Boysens, but those look fine; bees prefer those to Marions.

- **Strawberries:** (6/15) Harvest is moving along. Some decent fruit and fields as well as fields that have a lot of fruit mold issues. Slow start as the cool weather all that way through bloom and into the beginning of harvest has slowed the ripening. Low demand for Northwest processed strawberries is casting a pall over the industry and leaving the growers demoralized. Fresh market fruit is also ripening slowly. Plenty of local demand for them without a lot of supply right now. Same old problem in spades this year--there's good demand for local and fresh strawberries, but the big majority of the acreage and large growers are geared for the processed market that continues to decline.

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Field Day / Meeting Information

- **June 17— WSU Strawberry Field Day:** 2- 4 pm, Puyallup, WA at the Goss Farm (formerly Farm 5). As in past years, it will be an informal wander through the research plots pointing out some of the more promising selections. Also discussion on the current information on Spotted Wing Drosophila. Contact [Dr. Pat Moore](#) (253-445-4525) for more information.
- **June 18 — WSU Extension, Whatcom County Blueberry & Raspberry IPM Field day:** 9:30-12, Boxx Berry Farm, 6211 Northwest Road, Ferndale, WA, RSVP to Dan Coyne: dcoyne@wsu.edu or (360) 676-6736. [Click here](#) for details.
- **June 30 — OSU Caneberry Field Day:** 1-5 pm at the North Willamette Research Station in Aurora. [Click here](#) for the agenda and other details.
- **July 8 — PARC Agassiz Berry Field Day,** 2-4 pm at the PARC Abbotsford Farm, 510 Clearbrook Road, Abbotsford. Updates on raspberry & strawberry breeding programs, blueberry cultivar evaluations, Spotted Wing Drosophila, berry research and industry issues...and ice cream too! For more information contact Chaim Kempler, 604-796-1716 Chaim.Kempler@agr.gc.ca.
- **July 14 — OSU Blueberry Field Day:** 1-5 pm at the North Willamette Research Station in Aurora. Details TBA.

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Alert

Weather conditions are improving but taking their time about it. In most of the region, conditions conducive to fungal disease development continue.

- **Strawberries:** Processed crop is coming in the Willamette Valley and SW Washington. Botrytis fruit mold, Anthracnose, leather rot and other ripe fruit diseases have high potential for crop damage. Powdery Mildew is also at elevated levels. Given the cool bloom and harvest temperatures, the ripening period is very slow.
- **Blueberries:** Duke harvest could start in Southern Oregon and Eastern Washington as early as next week. Maybe a week later in mid and Northern Willamette Valley. Major threats to the fruit continue to be from botrytis, Alternaria, and Anthracnose with the botrytis green fruit mold being the most visible threat, primarily in Duke. Fungicide applications for this symptom at this stage are deemed of limited, unknown value, but this is an on farm decision depending on the grower's judgment of field conditions and potential efficacy of the application.
- **Raspberries and blackberries:** Bloom is finishing in Marions and in raspberries. The major window for prevention of botrytis fruit mold (during bloom) is passed. If a good bloom fungicide regime wasn't followed, the crop will be at much greater risk of problems should harvest conditions are unfavorable. Stay on top of getting ripe fruit out of the field ASAP. It should be a long harvest season, which will help this. Fungicides just before or during harvest have some limited value but are much less effective at fruit mold control than the bloom sprays when the fungus actually infects the bloom and then becomes active when the fruit ripens.

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Industry News/Resources

Newsletters

- **The Source**, market updates from The Produce News for 6/14: [Click here](#).
- **B.C. Blueberry Council Blueberry IPM Newsletter** for 6/10: [Click here](#).
- **Michigan State IPM Fruit Newsletter** for 6/15: [Click here](#).
- **New Jersey Blueberry Bulletin** for 6/7: [Click here](#).

- **Michigan State Blueberry Newsletter** for 6/15: [Click here](#).

National

- **(New Jersey) July 4 forecast: Red, White and lots of Blues:** [Click here](#) (6/11, Produce News)
- **Several berries may help prevent cancer:** [Click here](#) (6/10, UPI.com)
- **(Michigan) Blueberry farmers also frosted at Mother Nature over crop damage:** [Click here](#) (6/10, Mlive.com)

International

- **(China) USDA bans organic certification inspection agency from China:** [Click here](#) (6/13, NY Times)
- **(England) The consumption of blueberries increases steeply:** [Click here](#) (6/14, Freshplaza.com)

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Pest Management--Crop Protection Materials Update

- **Makhteshim Agan of North America and EPA agree to voluntary withdrawal of Endosulfan:** [Click here](#) (6/11, Growingproduce.com) For the U.S. berry growers, this is Thionex.

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Pest Alerts

- **[Orange Tortrix Leafrollers](#), southern blackberries and raspberries:**
The larval hatch that causes our major crop contaminant problems has started to be picked up caneberry fields in SW Washington and Oregon. Fields that have been recording high adult pheromone trap counts are at high risk of having larval contaminant problems at harvest. Control materials containing active ingredients specifically targeted at leafroller larvae such as *Bacillus thuringiensis* and Spinosad are much more effective on these larvae when they're small.
- **[Strawberry Crown Moth](#), southern strawberries/caneberries:** The first SCM adult was picked up in a pheromone sticky trap in an Oregon field this week. First control treatments should be timed to go on 10-14 days after first consistent trap catches.
- **[Slugs](#), strawberries:** The wet conditions combined with ripening fruit are bringing out a bumper crop of slugs. Slug control materials are being used by many growers. With ripe fruit in the field, be sure to follow label directions carefully to avoid any fruit contamination.
- **[Birds](#), blueberries and some southern strawberries and caneberries:** There's a high population of Cedar Waxwings in areas of the Willamette Valley that have been causing damage to strawberry crops and can be expected to move into blueberries and, possibly, caneberries as the fruit ripens. This species can sometimes be even more difficult to manage than starlings. Have bird management tactics in place and check to evaluate their effectiveness.

Pest management---Spotted Wing Drosophila Update

[Click here](#) for information links.

Oregon State SWD Website

- [Click here](#) for the website.
- [Click here](#) for the June 7th Update on SWD conditions & research from OSU.

Northwest monitoring weekly update — North to South

- **British Columbia:** From the 6/10 B.C. Blueberry IPM Newsletter: "SWD traps have been placed in strawberry, blueberry, raspberry and blackberry fields throughout the Fraser Valley. The first SWD were trapped in raspberries and blueberries in the eastern Fraser Valley this week. A few suspect male and female drosophilid flies were also caught in blueberry and raspberry fields in Matsqui, Langley, and Delta areas. Suspect flies are being sent for confirmation by CFIA taxonomists." [Click here](#) for the complete newsletter.
- **Whatcom County, Northern WA:** This week no SWD adults were reported being recovered by either the public trapping survey or from individual farms contacted. Whatcom County Extension is reporting on traps placed in fields where the growers have volunteered to share information. [Click here](#) to go to the site.
- **Skagit County, Northern WA:** Dr. Lynell Tanigoshi (WSU, Mt. Vernon Station) reports three SWD adults recovered this week. One male and one female in raspberries and one female in cherries.

The number of fields and crops being monitored in each of the following WA and OR counties varies; so, the total trap counts cannot be directly correlated with each other. They should be viewed as indicators only. This pest can be very site specific. Any treatment decisions should be based on monitoring data/observations gathered directly from the field to be treated. [Click here](#) for regularly updated monitoring data from these counties.

- Clark, Cowlitz & Lewis Counties, Southwest WA: **Cherry**: 2 males, 1 female. **Raspberry**: 1 male, 1 female.
- Multnomah & Washington Counties, OR: **Salmonberry**: 4 males, 2 females. **Blackberry**: 2 females.
- Yamhill & Clackamas Counties, OR: **Cherry**: 1 male, 7 females.
- Polk & Marion Counties, OR: **Cherry**: 1 male, 0 females.
- Linn & Lane Counties, OR: **Strawberry**: 1 female.
- Jackson & Josephine Counties, Southern OR: **Cherry**: 1 male, 10 females. **Peaches**: 2 males, 2 females. **Figs**: 3 males, 2 females. **Blueberries**: 1 female.

Weekly Summaries of SW Washington/Western Oregon—Public SWD Monitoring Program

This table shows how static the catches have been over the last 4 weeks. Some pesticide applications have impacted the numbers so the last two weeks might have been higher. We'll see this week if there's a trend toward higher male counts.

Dates	Total Males	Total Females
5/17-5/21	11	38
5/24-5/28	4	37
5/31-6/4	6	48
6/7-6/11	15	29

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Ongoing Pest Management Information

Insects

- [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.
- **Root Weevils, strawberries:**
Weevil management clarifications: *While the following information is, in general, accurate, there are a number of factors that complicate weevil management, a couple of those factors are:*
 - **Some weevil adults overwinter** and emerge early in the season ready to lay eggs. These overwintering adults would not be controlled effectively under the following management regime.
 - **There many different weevil species** affecting our crops. Each one has its own unique lifecycle. Management activities and timing of control applications need to be geared to the particular species.
 - **General weevil management recommendations:** Root weevil pupae and adults are now being recovered as well as larvae in some strawberry fields. After emergence, it takes about 30 days before an adult (and they're all female) begins laying eggs. So, treatments for these adults should take place before that 30 day window is up but after sizable amounts 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 on our major pest weevil species, click on the following: [Black Vine](#), [Rough Strawberry](#), and [Strawberry Root Weevils](#).
- [Clay Colored Weevils](#) northern raspberries.
- [Winter Moth/ Bruce Spanworm](#) blueberries.
- [Leafroller larvae](#) blueberries.
- [Redberry Mite](#) evergreen blackberries.
- [Blueberry Gall Midge](#), blueberries.
- [Raspberry Beetle](#), northern raspberries.
- [Twospotted Spider Mites](#), northern raspberries.
- [Yellow Mites](#), northern raspberries.
- [Azalea Bark Scale](#), southern blueberries.

Diseases

- [Alternaria Fruit Rot](#), blueberries.
- [Anthracnose Ripe Rot](#), blueberries.
- [Powdery Mildew](#), strawberries.
- [Blackberry Rust](#) (Phragmidium Rust) evergreen blackberries.
- [Yellow Rust](#), raspberries.
- [Mummyberry](#) blueberries.
- [Phytophthora Root Rot](#) raspberries.
- [Shock virus](#), blueberries.
- [Scorch virus](#), British Columbia blueberries.

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Crop work

All crops—

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

Blueberries—

- Scout for fruit disease symptoms and/or disorders.
- Scout for leafroller larvae feeding.
- Scout for scale insects.
- Scout for weevil notching.
- Scout for virus symptoms & send in samples for testing as needed.
- Can apply fungicides for fruit/blossom rot.
- After petal fall, can treat for Alternaria and Anthracnose prevention if needed.

Blackberries—

- Scout for virus symptoms & send in samples for testing as needed.
- Can apply fungicides for fruit/blossom rot.
- Scout for Phragmidium rust in Evergreen blackberries.
- Scout for Cane and Leaf Rust.
- Put out pheromone traps for leafrollers.
- Scout for leafroller larvae.

Raspberries—

- Can apply fungicides for fruit/blossom rot.
- Scout for Clay Colored Weevil feeding and treat as needed.
- Scout for Yellow Rust and assess treatment options.
- Scout for spider mites and treat as needed.
- Scout for virus symptoms & send in samples for testing as needed.
- Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to confirm.
- Put out pheromone traps for leafrollers.
- Scout for leafroller larvae.

Strawberries—processed harvest ongoing in SW Washington and Oregon

- 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.
- Scout for Powdery Mildew and treat as needed.
- Scout for two Spotted Spider Mites and predatory, beneficial mites.
- Scout for aphids.
- Scout for weevil adults and notching.
- Scout for fruit quality issues such as mold.
- Plan to put out pheromone traps for Strawberry Crown Moth in southern fields.

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Archived Small Fruit Updates

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

[06-08-10](#)

[06-01-10](#)

[05-25-10](#)

[05-18-10](#)