

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.

October 14, 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:** (10/11) Post harvest activities underway with sawdust mulches being topped up. Copper and fungicide sprays going on. There's some real variation in shut down in some blueberry fields. Warm moist weather has encouraged considerable soft, late-season growth in some fields. We would really like things to start hardening off a little faster, especially in light of some reports of a potentially long, tough winter in BC.
- **Raspberries:** (10/11) Lots of pruning and tying in the raspberries as growers take advantage of available labour. New canes look very good and, as in the blues, there is considerable soft new growth as a result of the mild weather and significant moisture in September.
- **Spotted Wing Drosophila management:** Regarding SWD, I agree totally with the comments below from my colleague in the Willamette Valley. It's all about full canopy coverage for good control as well as short re-spray intervals in the height of the infestation period.

Whatcom County, Northern Washington

- (10/8) Platinum (thimethoxam) on strawberries for root weevil larva. Copper on blueberries and raspberries after pruning. Also lots of subsoiling. Found my first ever praying mantis this week. He was praying I would let him go. So I did.

Skagit County, Northern Washington

- **Blueberries:** (10/11) (Organic Production) Two more Elliott picks to go, weather permitting. Organic fruit has sized well and quality is good.

Disseminating information for:

Washington

[Washington Red Raspberry Commission](#)
[Washington Blueberry Commission](#)
[Washington Strawberry Commission](#)

Oregon

[Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission](#)
[Oregon Blueberry Commission](#)
[Oregon Strawberry Commission](#)

British Columbia

[Fraser Valley Strawberry Growers Association](#)
[Raspberry Industry Development Council](#)
[B.C. Blueberry Council](#)

- **Blackberries:** (10/11) (Organic Production)
 - **Late season fresh market:** Chesters are winding down. It appears the market for them will drop below picking cost before all harvestable fruit is gone, as fresh fruit is coming into the market from Mexico.
 - **Post harvest mid season varieties:** Sawdust, compost, and copper going on now with floricane removal. We'll try tying up Black Diamond primocanes with a single tie until the leaves fall off, then cut them down and lay them on the ground to see if they overwinter better that way.
- **Spotted Wing Drosophila management:** Oxidate appears to knock down SWD pretty well for an organic product, but it may have caused some spotting on Chesters. No fruit quality issues using it on blueberries so far. (*Note: This is an on-farm observation. Not a recommended or well researched usage.*)

Willamette Valley, Oregon and SW Washington

- **Blueberries:** (10/8) At Salem we are scheduled to complete our final hand pick on M-T-W. This will be fifth pick Aurora and we have been pleasantly surprised by how well even the very late fruit has sized up for this variety. Fruit bud set looks to be excellent and many varieties have yet to show much sign of fall color change.
- **Blueberries, blackberries:** (10/8) (Organic Production) We are finishing up with a fall compost application to all the acres not under weed mat, and sawdust application as well. All the varieties still have soft growing tips. I am hoping we don't get a hard frost and they will slow down soon. Replacing some drip tubing and installing trellis in the blackberry research plots.
- **Spotted Wing Drosophila management:** Keeping SWD out of the late season blueberries has been a challenge. We saw a date about four weeks ago when SWD began building despite the regular helicopter work. We concluded that ground rigs would be needed to keep ahead of the pest. There may be no substitute for excellent spray coverage deep in the heart of the bush to ensure pest-free late fruit. Another interesting observation has been that SWD has variety preferences on the farm; Jersey and Legacy are some favorites.

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Meeting on the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug—Potentially a major NW berry crop pest

October 20 — Oregon Department of Agriculture ~ 10-11:30, Cascade Hall, Oregon State Fairs Ground, Salem. All interested parties are invited/encouraged to attend. For more information, contact Dr. Helmuth W. Rogg, Entomologist IPPM Program Manager, Plant Division, ODA, 503-986-4662 or email: plant-info@oda.state.or.us.

Photo by S. Jacobs, Penn State



*There's a high risk of this insect causing major economic damage in our berry crops in the near future. It's already been confirmed as established in western Oregon urban areas and, most likely is in the process of spreading throughout the region. It has caused very serious crop damage in other regions where it's gotten established. This past season it hit some eastern U.S. fruit crops very hard. **Recent News Article:** [Stink Bug destroys half of Pennsylvania's peach crop](#) (10/11, Growing Produce)*

Meeting agenda includes:

- Introduction and brief history on the *Brown Marmorated Stink Bug* situation (Peter Shearer, OSU, Helmuth Rogg, Jim LaBonte, ODA)
- Regulatory background (Mitch Nelson, USDA APHIS, Dan Hilburn, Jim Cramer, ODA)
- What do we know about this new emerging pest? (Peter Shearer, OSU Hood River)
- What can we do against this new pest? (Peter Shearer, OSU, Helmuth Rogg, Jim LaBonte, ODA)

New Meeting Information – Maximizing pest suppression/minimizing pesticide risks

Organized by the [Integrated Plant Protection Center](#) at OSU and sponsored by NRCS, OSU, et al.

- **October 20** ~ 9-2, McMinnville Community Center, 600 NE Evans Street.
- **October 22** ~ 9-2, Salem, Marion County NRCS, 650 Hawthorne Avenue SE.
- SWD update, pesticide label changes, plus other topics. 4 Oregon pesticide license credits.
- [Click here](#) for full information and to register online.

Ongoing Meeting Information

For more comprehensive meeting schedule, [click here](#).

- **October 14** — Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission meeting ~ 5 pm. Langdon Farms in Aurora. Contact [Philip Gutt](#) for more information.
- **October 27** — Washington Red Raspberry Commission meeting ~ Lynden, WA., 19th Street Fire Hall at 1 pm. [Email](#) Henry Bierlink for more information, or call 360-354-8767.
- **October 28** — Washington Blueberry Commission meeting ~ WSU Mt Vernon REC. [Email](#) Alan Schreiber for more information, or call 509-266-4300.

- **November 4-6 — Mexico: National Berry Conference** ~ Zamora, Michoacán, Mexico. [Click here](#) (Spanish) [Click here](#) for the English translation.
- **December 1-3 — Northwest Small Fruits Center annual conference** ~ Owyhee Plaza Hotel, Boise, ID. Main conference day, December 2; committee meetings, December 3. Click [here](#) for newsletter and conference registration information. [Email](#) Philip Gütt for more information, or call 541-758-4043.
- **December 7 — WSU Small Fruit Workshop** ~ Lynden, WA. Details TBA.
- **January 5-7 — North American Raspberry and Blackberry Association Conference**, Savannah, Georgia. Being held in association with the [Southeast Regional Fruit and Vegetable Conference](#). [Click here](#) for registration and complete schedule information

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Industry News/Resources

2010 Northwest Raspberry, Blackberry and Strawberry Plant Sales

Compiled by Dr. Pat Moore, WSU's Small Fruit plant breeder. Information is voluntarily shared by wholesale nurseries.

[Raspberries](#) [Blackberries](#) [Strawberries](#) [Black raspberries](#)

This information is useful for, among other things, looking at cultivar planting trends and seeing how many new plantings are going in during a given year.

Colony Collapse disorder in bee hives—controversy stirred up over recent research

- [Scientists & soldiers solve a bee mystery](#) (Colony Collapse Disorder) (10/7, NY Times)
- [What a scientist didn't tell the NY Times about his study on bee deaths](#) (10/8, Fortune)

Market Newsletter

- ['The Source' for 10/11](#) Market updates from *The Produce News*

West Coast

- [Oregon berry crops avoided the voracious spotted wing fruit fly](#) (10/11, Oregonian)
- [Marin farmers seek path through web of labor laws](#) (10/1, Contra Costa Times)

National

- [Warmer, wetter weather has crops on the move](#) (10/8, Associated Press)
- [Automation is increasingly reducing the workforce](#) (10/4, LA Times)
- [Amid mounting safety concerns, technology helps track food from farm to table](#) (10/3, LA Times)
- [Despite economy, Americans don't want farm work](#) (9/28, Yahoo News) This headline seems to have some racial assumptions. I know a lot of Americans who make their living and have good careers in 'farm work'.

International

- [Chilean fruit exports to U.S. up 1.7% in 2009-2010](#) (10/8, The Packer)
- (New Zealand) [Big Berries promise of fruitful season](#) (10/13, The Marlborough Express) Has a photo with a 60 gram strawberry.

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Pest Management Information

Insects/Mites

- [Spotted Wing Drosophila](#)
 - **Oregon grape SWD Information:** [Willamette Valley grape Update for 10-12](#) (monitoring & research information sent out by Patti Skinkis, Oregon State University)
 - **New WSU Extension SWD Website for Eastern Washington growers launched:** [Click here](#).
- [Strawberry Crown Moth](#), **strawberries:** Infested strawberry plants either completely collapse or are weakened and show premature reddening.
- [Strawberry Crown Moth](#), **blackberries:** In blackberries, primocanes are girdled and easily break during training. Infested fields show fewer, weaker canes.
- **Weevils, strawberries, blueberries:** [Black Vine](#), [Strawberry](#) and [Rough Strawberry](#) root weevils. As the weather cools, adults re-emerge from the soil. Rough Strawberry root weevils lay eggs in the fall as well as the spring and control measures need to be considered in problem areas.

- [Redberry Mites](#), late ripening blackberries: Evergreens are usually the hardest hit. The berries turn brick red and hard instead of ripening.

Diseases

- [How to recognize Phytophthora & Pythium root rot in blueberries](#) (8/24, Fruit Crop Advisory Team Alert)
- **Raspberry and blackberry fungal diseases:** [Blackberry Rust](#) (Phragmidium Rust) **evergreen blackberries**, [Phytophthora Root Rot](#) raspberries.

Crop work

All crops

- Weed management.
- Apply lime, dolomite, gypsum and/or fall fertilizer.
- Scout for vole damage.

Blueberries post harvest

- Apply copper or Bordeaux for bacterial canker.
- Prune out canker-killed branches and remove them from the field.
- Scout for weevils and weevil notching.

Caneberries post harvest

- Can cut out old floricanes now and tie up primocanes.
- Scout and mark problem weed areas that could be treated in the winter.
- Can subsoil and till in raspberries after harvest. The soil fractures much better when it is dry so it's best to do this now before the fall rains start.
- For fields coming out this year, can basally spray with Roundup if perennial weeds are present.
- Can apply Ridomil for root rot control.
- Can apply copper or Bordeaux after tying up canes.
- Can drench for borer control.

Strawberries post harvest

- Can apply fertilizer.
- Scout weak areas for root weevil larvae, Strawberry Crown Moth, root disease or soil problems.
- Scout for weevil notching on leaves.
- Can apply drench for weevil larvae management.

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Archived Small Fruit Updates

(for older Updates [click here](#))

[09-28-10](#)

[09-16-10](#)

[09-07-10](#)