

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.

February 15, 2011

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Links

Link of the week:

[Traceability on the Farm](#) (Fruit Grower News) *This is a recently recorded webinar that's over an hour long. You can use the bar/arrow at the bottom to advance through it if desired.*

[The Weather Cafe](#) by Rufus La Lone
[Small Fruit Cold Storage Report](#)

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:** (2/14) Getting some copper sprays on the blues as the weather permits. Looks like dormancy has been left behind now as terminal buds are swelling and bud scales show some movement.
- **Raspberries:** (2/14) Raspberry buds showing green in many fields where the soils are lighter especially. Some baby fields were pushed ahead by warm weather 7-10 days ago and are showing a lot of off green bud extension. Always a nervous time in February. I'd like to see the days and nights remain cool for a while yet and stay out of the 50's (10°C).

Whatcom County, Northern Washington

- **Blueberries:** (2/11) Buds starting to flake open a little depending on the variety. Still very wet even after a week of beautiful weather. Copper is on after pruning.
- **Raspberries:** (2/11) Raspberries much the same as the blueberries. Disease symptoms are starting to show up a little more after the week with 50°F temperature and rain. Baby fields are starting to really pop out of the bud. Saanich getting really sucked into this early weather and breaking bud. Chemainus is probably half awake. Most Meekers are still just parked for winter.

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](#)

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Willamette Valley, Oregon and SW Washington

- **Blueberries:** (2/10) (Organic production) We are working on pruning. The buds are starting to open on Earlyblue variety. We're trying some flame weeding to see how it works this time of year and how long it will last.
- **Blueberries:** (2/14) Great blueberry bud set all around the Salem area and beyond. Fruiting wood has nice color and caliper except on farms where over-cropping was evident last year. We have been pleasantly surprised to see Legacy (4 yr old) show great fruit bud set on new wood. This variety had poor fruit set on new wood in past years. We are going to attribute this fruitfulness to mild fall weather but Legacy behavior is still somewhat of an unknown. Rodent bait, broadcast at the end of January, must have been very timely as evidenced by the high body count around the farm.
- **Blackberries:** (2/11) Wait for the appropriate weather conditions, but now is a good time to be mechanically brushing Marion blackberries (...to remove old leaves and detritus so they won't contaminate the crop). Wednesday and Thursday afternoons of this past week had perfect weather, sunshine and fairly dry, not sure when the next window will be.

Blueberry Early Spring Weather Management Information

- [Using your sprinkler system to protect blueberries from freezes](#) (Eric Hansen, Michigan State Small Fruit Specialist)
- [Critical Spring Temperatures for Tree Fruit and Small Fruit Bud Stages](#) (Mark Longstroth, Michigan State)
- [Frost or Freeze: What is the difference.](#) (Mark Longstroth, Michigan State)
- [Assessing Frost or Freeze Damage to Blueberries.](#) (Mark Longstroth, Michigan State)

Industry News/Resources

New Meeting Information

- **March 2 — ORBC Annual Pre-Production Workshop for Raspberry & Blackberry Growers**~ Full day workshop at Wellspring, Woodburn, OR. 8.30-3:30, [Click here](#) for the agenda. Contact Peerbolt Crop Management 503-289-7287, info@peerbolt.com for more information.

Newsletters

- ['The Source'](#) (2/14) Market updates from *The Produce News*
- [Michigan State University's Small Fruit IPM Advisor](#) (2/11) Update on the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug confirmed presence in Michigan.

Webinars/presentations

- [Effect of Mulches on Organically Grown Blueberries in Georgia](#) (2/11, eXtension.org/blueberries) This is a large (6.5 MB) PDF. Download speed will be a factor on slower computers.

West

- [California Giant names blueberry GM](#) (2/7, The Packer) Mr. Pence is relocating to Aurora, OR.
- (OR) [Harry and David changes too little, too late](#) (2/13, S. Oregon Mail Tribune)
- (CA) [California Strawberry Commission development team helps retailers boost berry sales](#) (2/7, Produce News)
- [Agriculture at the county level rebounds a bit in Oregon](#) (2/9, ODA)
- [Oregon farmers regaining ground](#) (2/11, Oregonian)
- [Strawberries remain a favorite for retail](#) (2/11, The Packer)

National

- [Nassif \(President, Western Growers Assn.\) calls on congress to fix flawed rules under the Endangered Species Act and H-2A program](#) (2/9, The Produce News)
- (Georgia) [Cold weather could hurt blueberries, peaches](#) (2/14, WSBTV.com)
- [First lady munches on blueberries with Atlanta school pupils on 1st anniversary of "Let's Move!"](#) (2/9, Minneapolis Star-Tribune)

International

- [Driscoll announces organizational changes](#) (2/2, Produce News)
- [Chile reaches 80% of export targets](#) (2/14, FreshFruitPortal.com)

Regulations

- [Recommendations for Improving Consultation on Pesticide Registration](#) (WSDA) *This is in regard to the Endangered Species Act enforcement issues that are driving many potential restrictions on pesticide applications in Washington and Oregon.*

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Classifieds

Job opening: Grower Relations/Food Safety Manager. Oregon Berry Packing in Hillsboro, Oregon. [Click here](#) for details.

Berries Wanted: [Sainte Genevieve Winery](#) in Missouri makes fruit wines from various growers all over the U.S. They are looking for potential suppliers in the Pacific Northwest. Preference would be for mid-size family berry growers. The total amount needed would be around 20,000 pounds. If interested, contact Chris Hoffmeister, 1-573-483-2012, email: lhoffmeister@hotmail.com

Looking for Internship: “My name is Shawn Scoresby. I’m a junior studying Agriculture Business at Brigham Young University-Idaho. I’m interested in an internship where I will be able to become better accustomed with raspberry production. If you have a position available to hire an intern, please contact me by phone, 208-709-6637; or by e-mail, sco05009@byui.edu. Available around May 1st.”

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Pest Management & IPM Information

Vertebrates

- **Voles:** Vole activity is apparent in many blueberry, caneberry, and strawberry fields. Management of voles is most effective in the spring before they start multiplying like...voles. Kind of like weeds—get them before their reproduction cycle kicks in! [Click here](#) for some background and biology information on voles (or meadow mice). [Click here](#) for information on how to construct bait stations.
- **Birds, blueberries. Starling management:** Right now starlings are beginning to fledge. Population control becomes very difficult later into the season because they multiply rapidly. This is a major pest species that needs year round management attention.
 - [Click here](#) for a starling fact sheet.
 - [Click here](#) for a starling nesting fact sheet.
 - [Click here](#) for the Okanagan (B.C.) grape grower starling trapping program. This is a well documented and well run starling management plan.

Diseases

- **[Pseudomonas \(Bacterial Blight\)](#) blueberries:** Water-soaked lesions can appear at this time of year on canes that then develop into reddish brown to black cankers. Cankers may extend from a fraction of an inch to the entire length of 1-year-old wood. Buds in cankers die. If girdled, the cane portion above the canker dies. **Recommended management:** The lesions now being seen are the effects of past infections. To prevent future lesions from forming, copper sprays are recommended as the temperatures get warmer, usually around mid-February in the Willamette Valley and SW Washington. Good coverage is essential with copper.

Insects/Mites

- **[Winter Moth/ Bruce Span Worm](#) blueberries:** Scouting for winter moth larvae should start as soon as the buds start swelling. We’ve had reports in previous years of problems beginning this early but it’s

usually in a couple of weeks. More of an ongoing issue in the northern growing regions but also an occasional, locally severe problem in some Oregon and SW Washington fields.

- **Scale blueberries:** A dormant oil or Esteem (pyriproxyfen) can be used while blueberries are dormant.

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Spotted Wing Drosophila Update for 2-15-11

This Update is a collaborative effort with contributions from OSU, USDA-ARS, WSU, and Peerbolt Crop Management.

- [Click here](#) for information links from PCM.
- [Click here](#) for the OSU SWD website.
- [Click here](#) for the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands SWD website.
- [Click here](#) for the WSU, Mt. Vernon SWD website.

Management material Update

- [2011SWD Recommendations for Sweet Cherry from UC Davis](#) (1/3/11)

General SWD Comments

- Overwintering populations as measured by vinegar traps are higher this year than last at this same time.
- Overwintering flies often have bigger wings and darker bodies. Maybe there is an overwintering morph?

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Meeting Information

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

- **February 24 — Oregon Strawberry Commission Annual Growers meeting~** TBA. North Willamette Research & Extension Center, Aurora, OR. 2009-2010 reports will be presented. Contact [Rachel Denué](#) for more information.
- **March 2 — ORBC Annual Pre-Production Workshop~** Full day workshop at Wellspring, Woodburn, OR. 8.30-3:30, [Click here](#) for the agenda. Contact Peerbolt Crop Management 503-289-7287, info@peerbolt.com for more information.
- **March 8 — Oregon Blueberry Commission meeting~** noon. Budget Preparation. Santiam Room, West Salem Roth's IGA in Salem. Contact [Bryan Ostlund](#) for more information, or call 503-364-2944.
- **March 17 — Oregon Strawberry Commission meeting ~** Noon. Roth's IGA, Salem, OR. Contact [Philip Gutt](#), or call 541-758-4043 for more information.
- **March 22 — Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission meeting ~** Noon. Langdon Farms Golf Course, Aurora, OR. Contact [Philip Gutt](#), or call 541-758-4043 for more information.
- **April 1 — Ecological Raspberry Production Systems (ECORAZ) ~** Time TBA. WSU-Mount Vernon Northwestern Washington Research and Extension Center. An educational symposium exploring productivity, soil health, water and nutrient management. Lunch provided. Contact [Colleen Burrows](#) for more information.
- **April 12 — Washington Blueberry Commission meeting ~** Regular commission meeting to be held in Eastern WA. Location TBA. Contact [Alan Schreiber](#) 509-266-4300 for more information.
- **April 13 — Washington Red Raspberry Commission meeting ~** Puyallup, WA. Contact [Henry Bierlink](#) or call 360-354-8767 for more information.

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Crop work

All crops: Scout for voles and treat as needed.

Blueberries

- Pruning—finish up as soon as possible.
- Scout for winter moth/span worm and treat as needed.
- Scout for bud damage & determine cause.
- Dormant oil can be applied for scale and winter moth egg control.
- Can apply Casoron (dichlobenil) or Chateau for weed control.

Blackberries

- Don't begin training down Marion berries until after threat of damaging cold weather is passed.
- Can apply Casoron (dichlobenil) for weed control. Especially good on quackgrass.

Evergreen Blackberries

- Can apply a dormant spray of lime/sulfur or elemental sulfur in mid-February for Redberry mites.

Raspberries

- Can apply Casoron (dichlobenil) for weed control. Especially good on quackgrass.

Strawberries

- Can apply pre-emergent herbicides. Spartan (Sulfentrazone) needs to go on before the end of February.

Archived Small Fruit Updates

(For older Updates [click here.](#))

[02-02-11](#)

[01-19-11](#)

[01-04-11](#)

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