

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.

March 15, 2011

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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:** (Sunday, 3/13) Hard times getting anything done with the lousy weather. But given what else is happening in the world, I guess we'll live with it. Still some blues getting pruned but not a lot of spraying getting done. We're looking at Mummyberry sprays soon if the weather warms up. The good news is that we've saved some money compared to last year when we'd already had a couple of these applications on already.
- **Raspberries:** (Sunday, 3/13) Raspberries getting finished with tying and tipping.

Northern Washington

- **Blueberries & Raspberries:** (Saturday, 3/12) My oh my, hard to get field work done around the wind, rain, and wet snow showers this week. Got a bit of blueberry herbicide down. A few folks are spraying lime sulfur in raspberries. The last of the raspberry tying should be done this week and then it looks like most of the lime sulfur will follow. Mummyberry spray in blues are not too far off, a few 50 degree days should make them pop. There's not much evident damage from the freeze.

Eastern Washington

- **Blueberries:** (Thursday, 3/10) The Washington Blueberry Commission has a research site north of Pasco that has a variety trial with 18 cultivars. During the night of February 25, the minimum night time temperature was 4 degrees Fahrenheit. We collected samples from each variety prior and after the cold

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](#)

temperatures. None of the 16 northern highbush varieties showed obvious freeze damage before or after the cold weather. The Rabbiteye variety, Powder Blue showed 40% damaged after the cold weather. The Rabbiteye variety, Ochlockonee had 50% of the terminals damaged before the event and 100% of terminals damaged afterwards. Conversations with two local blueberry growers seem to confirm that commonly planted blueberry varieties in Eastern Washington seem to have dodged the cold weather bullet. The warm weather of the last seven days has kicked blueberries into high gear.

Willamette Valley, Oregon and SW Washington

- **Blueberries:** (Thursday, 3/10) Pretty quiet field week here. Some field work is getting done, but it's too wet for most. Wet, windy, and mild...and for at least the next week. Still no significant bloom on any of the blues. Still no Mummyberry sprouting in my samples either. But some plantings are getting into vegetative green tip stage so they're into a window of time when they could get infected by Mummyberry. If you've got a field like that that's had problems, better get a fungicide application on when you can. The spray windows are few and far between.
- **Caneberries:** (Thursday, 3/10) Caneberries are pushing, but the cold of the week before seems to have set the growth rate back. It'll certainly pick up considerably this week with highs now consistently in the 50's and low's in the mid 40's.

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Classifieds

Washington Blueberry Promotion effort is looking for an Airstream trailer. Darryl Ehlers, a former Washington Blueberry commission member and long-time Washington blueberry grower, is searching for a 14 foot or shorter Air Stream trailer or a plastic 10 foot trailer resembling the shape of a blueberry that he could modify for the commission's uses for promotional purposes. Darryl says, "Air Stream lends to nostalgia and has the shape needed to make this fly. If needed it can be gutted, because all that will be in it are shelves, brochures or food sampling to move from show to show."

If you have, or know of, a trailer that could be for sale, contact Darryl at 360-988-5184 or email him at lingonberry1@aol.com.

Labor/Immigration–E-Verify News

*E-verify is the system that is quickly changing the dynamics of U.S. agricultural labor issues. In the absence of federal action on immigration reform, many states are taking their own steps with a number now in various stages of attempts to mandate E-verify use by **all employers**.*

- [What is E-Verify?](#) (U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services)
- [Rep. Peter DeFazio \(D-OR\) introduces mandatory E-Verify bill in the House](#) (1/31, NumbersUSA.com)
- [Victory in Georgia: State House passes E-verify bill by 2-to-1 margin](#) (3/3, NumbersUSA.com) Victory is a pretty loaded word in this title.
- (Georgia) [Testimony before the Georgia House Judiciary Committee on HB 87](#) (Immigration Daily) This is a good legal primer on some of the basic issues involved. Do states have the power to regulate immigration?
- (Florida) [Tea Parties challenge Republican lawmakers to pass E-Verify](#) (3/8, SunshineNews—opinion/blog)
- [Alabama business group tracks status of illegal immigration bill](#) (3/10, The Birmingham News)

Labor/Immigration –related stories

- [State legislatures slow on immigration measures](#) (3/13, New York Times)
- [Itinerant life weighs on farmworkers children](#) (3/11, New York Times)

Industry News/Resources

Newsletters/Blogs

- [‘The Source’](#) (3/14) Market updates from *The Produce News*.

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West

- [California strawberry growers form new sales company](#) (3/11, The Produce News) a new sales company will service customers year round with strawberries from multiple locations throughout Mexico and California.
- [Bill links Oregon farms with school lunches](#) (3/10, Salem Statesmen Journal)

National

- [Georgia blueberry industry sees continued growth](#) (3/8, Growing Produce)

International

- [Chilean blueberry harvest draws to a close](#) (3/14, FreshPlaza.com)
- [Chilean blueberry season concludes with a rise](#) (3/11, FreshPlaza.com)
- [Chile's blueberry exports grow 33% in 2010-11](#) (3/10, FreshFruitPortal.com)

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New Herbicides for British Columbia Blueberries

There are a couple of newly registered herbicides to consider fitting into a B.C. blueberry weed control program. Before using a new product, be sure to consult with your field rep or advisor and read the complete label recommendations. Thanks to Mark Sweeney, B.C. Ministry of Agriculture Berry Industry Specialist, for passing on this information.

- **Dual Magnum** (metolachlor) is a product which has been used for many years on field crops and vegetables. It is a pre-emergent herbicide which is particularly good on seedling grasses, such as barnyard grass, and will also control some broadleaf weeds. It should be used early in the spring before weeds emerge. Unfortunately it will not work well in soils with over 10% organic matter. [Click here](#) for the revised Canadian label.
- **Callisto 480SC** (mesotrione) has been approved and is expected to be registered later this spring. It is a broadleaf herbicide that can be applied pre or post emergence to the weeds as a directed spray. In trials it has been shown to be effective and also very safe to the crop. *Label to come soon.*

Pest Alerts

Diseases

The weather is turning warmer and the plants start showing new growth-- blueberry plant risk of infection from both Mummyberry & Bacterial Blight is higher than normal due to frost/freeze damaged tissue along with very wet conditions. The management strategies for both of these diseases require the control materials to be in place on the plant tissue to prevent infections. Take advantage of spray windows available between the rains.

- **Risk is High: [Pseudomonas \(Bacterial Blight\)](#) blueberries- Recommended management:** To prevent future lesions from forming, copper sprays are recommended as the temperatures get warmer. Good coverage is essential with copper.
- **[Mummyberry](#) blueberries**
Some Oregon & SW Washington blueberry fields are at or near green tip stage when infections can take place.
 - [Click here](#) for a pictorial guide put together by Michigan State University of the various stages of blueberry growth development. Fields are at risk of Mummyberry infections at 'green tip stage'.
 - [Click here](#) for a Mummyberry fact sheet from MSU.

Insects/Mites

- **[Winter Moth/ Bruce Span Worm](#) blueberries:** There are reports of Winter Moth larvae being present in an Oregon blueberry field. Check buds for webbing. BT (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) formulations are very effective management tools.

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Vertebrates

- **Voles, all berries:** **Zinc Phosphide baits can only be used up until budbreak.** [Click here](#) for some background and biology information on voles (or meadow mice). [Click here](#) for information on how to construct bait stations.

Ongoing Pest Management & IPM Information

Diseases

- **[Phytophthora Root Rot](#) raspberries:** March is the time to use a fungicide drench in raspberries. Warm, saturated soils are the conditions that favor this organism allowing it to spread quickly.
- **[Blackberry Rust \(Phragmidium Rust\)](#) Evergreen blackberries:** Dormant spray of lime/sulfur or elemental sulfur for Blackberry Rust and Redberry Mites is recommended in March to prevent later problems.
- **[Cane Blight](#) raspberries:** A good time to spot symptoms of cane blight is as the buds break.
- **[Mummyberry](#) blueberries:** See [alert section](#) above.
- **[Pseudomonas \(Bacterial Blight\)](#) blueberries:** See [alert section](#) above.
- **[Purple Blotch](#) blackberries:** Check for cane lesions that are easy to see as the weather warms but the foliage has not yet emerged. It's a good time to assess disease level.

Insects/Mites

- **[Winter Moth/ Bruce Span Worm](#) blueberries:** Scouting for Winter Moth larvae should start as soon as the buds start swelling. More of an ongoing issue in the northern growing regions but also an occasional, locally severe problem in some Oregon and SW Washington fields.
- **[Lecanium scale](#) blueberries:** A dormant oil or Esteem (pyriproxyfen) can be used while blueberries are dormant.
- **[Raspberry Crown Borer](#) caneberries:** If you've had borer problems in the past, March is the time to drench for crown borer control in caneberries.
- **[Strawberry Crown Moth](#) southern caneberries:** In Oregon and Southwest Washington, this borer looks to do as much, if not more, damage in caneberries as the Raspberry Crown Borer. The treatment is the same as for RCB- a spring (or fall) insecticide drench.
- **[Clay Colored Weevils](#) northern raspberries:** This early emerging species is considered a pest of raspberries in northern growing areas where it feeds on newly emerging shoots and buds.
- **[Redberry Mite](#) evergreen blackberries:** Dormant sprays of lime/sulfur or elemental sulfur for Blackberry Rust and Redberry Mite are recommended in March.

Spotted Wing Drosophila Update for 3-15-11

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

SWD Information Websites

[Peerbolt Crop Management](#)

[Oregon State Univ.](#)

[B.C. Ministry of Ag.](#)

[WSU Westside](#)

[WSU Eastside](#)

General Comments

- In 2010, the first recorded SWD trap catch was on April 7. From that point, recorded trap catches remained very low & isolated until mid-June.
- However, last year, we were still sorting out SWD female/male identification problems as well as not having traps out as extensively during the 2009-10 winter.
- There are indications that this year's SWD population is much higher than last year at this time.
- We're still early in understanding this insect's regional dynamics and the extent of its potential economic threat to berry and stone fruit crops.
- Last year's very cool, atypical season should not be assumed to be a reliable indicator of SWD behavior or its potential for causing economic crop damage for the upcoming 2011 season.
- Right now reported SWD catches from in-field traps are close to zero at all locations. However, a few sites in alternative habitats/fruits are recording very high numbers.

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Monitoring Reports

These reports are from a fairly small number of locations. More expanded scouting will begin in a couple of weeks.

Southern Oregon (OSU Extension):

- While most traps had no SWD catches this past week a couple of locations had very high numbers.
- One in a fig tree had 134 total flies.
- One in Himalayan blackberries had 51 total flies.
- About 20% were males and 80% females.

Mid Willamette Valley (OSU Extension):

- Most traps had no catches. However, one trap in wild cherry had 70 total flies with about 30% being males.
- Traps in one large blueberry farm that has been continually monitored have dropped to zero after reporting low but fairly steady counts throughout the last couple of months.

Planned Public Northwest SWD Scouting Programs

These programs are being funded from a variety of sources that including a USDA SCRI grant, grants from the USDA's Northwest Center for Small Fruits Research, the Washington Red Raspberry Commission, the Washington Blueberry Commission and the Washington State Commission for Pesticide Registrations.

- **Peerbolt Crop Management, Inc:**
 - An area-wide scouting program in SW Washington and the northern & mid Willamette Valley will begin in the first week of April.
 - PCM will also be maintaining an SWD real-time monitoring information recording and dissemination system that will allow scouting data from various regions to be centrally recorded, disseminated & archived for year to year comparisons and analysis.
- **Oregon State Extension:** OSU Extension will have scouting programs in southern Oregon and the Hood River area as well as in selected Willamette Valley berry fields, stone fruit orchards and grape vineyards.
- **Washington State Extension, westside:** WSU Extension is coordinating a scouting program for Whatcom, Skagit, and other northwestern Washington counties, as well as coordinating scouting in southwestern Washington counties with Peerbolt Crop Management.
- **Washington State Extension, eastside:** WSU Extension is also coordinating a scouting program for eastside blueberries with the Agriculture Research Group, Inc. in Eltopia, WA.
- **British Columbia:** The B.C. Ministry of Ag is cooperating with the blueberry and raspberry councils and with [ES Cropconsult, Ltd.](#) to support a regional SWD scouting program.

Meeting Information

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

- **March 15 — OSU Bee Identification Workshop** ~ 1-4pm, North Willamette Research & Extension Center, Aurora. [Click here](#) for agenda and registration form. \$25 per person. Pre-registration is required due to space limitations. Registration: Jan Engli 503-678-1264 x 110. Organizer: [Wei Yang](#), 503-678-1264 x 116. Instructors: Sujaya Rao & W.P. Stephen, OSU Crop & Soil Science.
- **March 17 — Oregon Strawberry Commission meeting** ~ Noon. Roth's IGA, Salem, OR. Contact [Philip Gutt](#), or call 541-758-4043 for more information or see attached [agenda](#) for more details.
- **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. [Click here](#) for details or 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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- **April 19-20 —Soil & Water Conservation Society: “Protecting Natural Resources with Conservation Buffers”** ~ [Click here](#) for details. Portland, OR. Someone from EPA will be giving the keynote address. This conference will address many of the issues that are at the center of ongoing legal efforts to limit the use of many pesticides.

Nutrient Management

We're getting to a traditional time for applying fertilizer. Many growers still apply the first blueberry application just before the buds break. Recent research shows the plant takes up very little nitrogen before late April. Recommended timing for split applications in the Willamette Valley is 1/3 in late April, 1/3 in mid-May and 1/3 in mid-June.

[Click here](#) For OSU's "Nutrient Management in Blueberries" (16 page pdf).

Crop work

All crops

- Scout for voles and treat as needed.
- Weed management.
- Plan fertilizer program.

Blueberries

- Weed management note: [Callisto \(mesotrione\)](#) can only be used before bloom.
- 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.
- Make preparations for bringing in bees around 10% bloom.

Blackberries

- Scout for Purple Blotch lesions in Marion berries to assess field disease levels for later treatments.
- Can apply lime sulfur for Redberry Mites and/or disease management.
- Can drench for crown borer management.

Evergreen Blackberries

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

Raspberries

- Can apply lime sulfur for disease management.
- (northern areas) Scout for Clay Colored Weevil feeding and treat as needed.
- Can apply Ridomil for Phytophthora root rot management.
- Can drench for crown borer management.
- Scout for Cane Blight and Cane Botrytis symptoms.

Strawberries

- Can apply pre-emergent herbicides.
- As plants start to grow, watch for weak growing areas and check rots for weevil larvae, root rot and/or cold damage.

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Archived Small Fruit Updates

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

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