

Small Fruit Update



Providing Northwest berry growers with the information they need when they need it.

The Small Fruit Update is sent out weekly during the growing season by [Peerbolt Crop Management](#) and is funded entirely by the Northwest berry growers & industry through their commissions & councils.

May 5, 2011

Table of Contents

- [Regional Reports](#)
- [Pest Alerts](#)
- [Pest Management Info](#)
- [SWD Info](#)
- [Industry News/ Resources](#)
- [Meeting Information](#)
- [CropWork](#)

Featured links:

- **Article of the week:** [Army, Navy impose Ban on Berries-](#) a 1959 article on a cranberry recall of OR and WA berries. (11/59, Miami News)
- [The Weather Cafe](#) by Rufus La Lone
- [Small Fruit Cold Storage Report](#)

For mobile device users: If you want to read the Update on your mobile device, Adobe and Foxit both have mobile readers. You can download them from these sites: [Adobe Mobile](#) and [Foxit Mobile](#).

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 & Raspberries:** (Tuesday, 5/3) Continued poor weather is delaying the onset of bloom in the blues. I really wonder what the crop harvest cycle is going to look like. Sunday's beautiful weather was a teaser, and today we're back to cool rainy conditions with a week of unsettled weather to come. Shock virus has appeared within the last week in the Duke and Brigitta fields that I have been through. Hopefully, we will place some bees by next weekend as there must be a start to bloom by then. I have seen some really bad Clay Coloured Weevil attacks in baby blues the past 7-10 days. Be on the lookout for these guys as damage to small plants can be significant.
- **Raspberries:** (Tuesday 5/3) Meekers are still very slow and weevil damage is not helping. There are some incredibly sparse looking fields out there. It really has to become warmer (notice I didn't say hot!), especially overnight. New plantings are very slow to emerge in the cool, wet soils. Chemainus and Saanich continue to be the strong performers this season, although even they should be a little farther ahead than they presently are.

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](#)

Willamette Valley, Oregon and SW Washington

- **Blueberries:** (Saturday, 4/30) At Salem, our initial bloom fungicide is underway between showers. Some of the early blossoms look a little tattered at this point, but the bees seem to be frequenting them in the intermittent fly zones. Other than Shock, no disease or cold damage evident to any degree. The crop is looking larger and larger as the flower buds break open. Percent open bloom for us on 4/30: Brigitta – 70%, Duke – 50%, Bluejay – 50%, Jersey – 30%, Bluecrop – 5% to 20%, Liberty – 10%, Aurora – 5%, and Elliott – 5%.
- **Blueberries & Strawberries:** (Thursday, 4/28) The Portland forecast: Friday-55/40 F scattered showers, maybe hail; Saturday-55/37 partly sunny; **Sunday-70/43 sunny**; Monday-57/40 cloudy chance of rain; Tuesday-60/40 cloudy; **Wednesday-70/43 sunny, Thursday- 70 sunny**. I think we just might have blueberries blooming and bees flying. Strawberries might even think about blooming. It's a wonderful world, isn't it?
- **Raspberries & Blackberries:** (Thursday, 4/28) Some issues with short laterals setting blossoms in some blacks and dead buds in some raspberries—undoubtedly cold issues.
- **Blueberries:** (Thursday, 4/28) As for blueberry cold damage—some cold nights (mid-upper twenties in some isolated locations, with a little open bloom) have left some bloom damage but it's too tough to give any percentages. I wouldn't be surprised to see it impact overall yields in some fields, but the correlation will be hard to make by the time we get there. Shock is showing up heavily in some fields also.

Pest Alerts

Blueberries - [Mummyberry](#)

- From now through the end of bloom, blueberries are susceptible to Mummyberry infections.
- This early period is critical to managing the disease when the vegetative buds are at/beyond green tip stage, there's long periods of wetness, the temperatures are getting into the 50-57°F / 10-14°C range...and it's difficult to get into the fields to treat.
[Click here](#) for a Mummyberry fact sheet from MSU.

Evergreen blackberries - [Blackberry Rust \(Phragmidium Rust\)](#) *This is a critical window in managing this disease.*

- The first new infection symptoms on the new leaves will be visible by the end of April-beginning of May.
- If lime sulfur was applied and first symptoms are light, a minimal fungicide program should be sufficient (e.g. one Rally (myclobutanil) application).
- Continue scouting through June to be sure another application isn't needed.

British Columbia Blueberries - [Scorch virus](#) - Vector (aphid) management

- From the B.C. Pest Alert: “Blueberry scorch virus is transmitted by aphids. An effective aphid control program should be used by all growers. **Fields should be treated before bloom with a registered aphicide to control the over-wintering aphids before they reproduce and disperse.**”
- Click on the blue link above for full information from the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture. Check with your berry management specialists, both public and private, for more specific recommendations and selection of appropriate management materials.
You can also email the B.C. Blueberry Council's research coordinator, [Karina Sakalauskas](#) (or call her at 604-613-2133) for information.

[Click here](#) to go back to the top of this newsletter.

Industry News/Resources

[Vote nears for forming a National Processed Red Raspberry Council](#)

The following information comes from Henry Bierlink, Executive director of the Washington Red Raspberry Commission.

- “I just received a call from USDA regarding the grower referendum to form the national processed raspberry marketing order.” (*Along the same lines as the existing U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council-tp*)
- It will be published in the Federal Register on Thursday, May 5th. The ballots will be going out to growers on June 1st.

- Ballots can be returned between June 8th and June 24th.
- A positive vote means the order would be in place between November and January
- The first meeting of the newly elected board would likely be in February or March, 2012.

Industry Positions & Internships

- **Field Operations Supervisor, California Giant Berry Farms:** Headquartered in Watsonville, CA, we are currently looking for a field representative for our Aurora, OR facility. Applicants must have experience in blueberry production management. Interested individuals looking for further information should send their resumes to Evan Pence at epence@calgiant.com. Cal Giant is a year-round packer and shipper of quality berries. Visit www.calgiant.com for company information.
- **Internship, Curry & Company, Inc:** “We are currently recruiting for our summer internship program.” [Click here](#) for a full description & information.

Food Safety

- [Food Safety Widgets & Apps](#) The new Food Safety Alerts & Tips Widget is the first widget that compiles all food recall information from FDA and USDA in the same place. (FDA Food Safety web site)

Technology

- [ONSET Offers Weather Data Feed Option](#) (4/21 precisionag.com)

Newsletters/Blogs

- ‘[The Source](#)’ (5/02) Market updates from The Produce News.
- [New Jersey Blueberry Bulletin](#) (4/25)
- [Pennsylvania IPM](#) (Spring 2011)

West

- [2011 Food Festivals in ID, MT, OR, WA](#)- Oregon Berry Festival listed July 22-23.
- [Driscoll Strawberry Associates Pursues Environmental Impact Benefits from CHEP Pallet Pool Program](#) (5/3, Businesswire.com)

National

- [New blueberry promotion campaign launched in USA](#) (4/18, FreshPlaza)
- [A Study of Strawberries and Disease Risk](#) A study is currently being conducted to test whether compounds in strawberries will help reduce insulin resistance and inflammation when eaten with a standard high fat/carbohydrate meal.(3/15, clinicaltrials.gov)

Pollinator Information

- [Pollinating highbush blueberries](#) (5/3, MSU) *Excellent primer on the subject. Commercial bumble bee usage is mentioned (“A bumble bee species native to eastern North America, Bombus impatiens, has been reared for use as a crop pollinator.”) This option is not yet available to Northwest growers.*
- [Pesticides and bees](#) (2 page pdf) *This is an article by Eric Mussen, Extension Apiculturist, UC Davis.*
 - [Click here](#) for Eric’s Apiculture Newsletters (view and/or subscribe).
 - [Click here](#) for his ‘Bee Briefs’—short articles on a number of bee related subjects.

[Click here](#) to go back to the top of this newsletter.

Spotted Wing Drosophila Update for 5-3-11

This Update is a collaborative effort with contributions from OSU, USDA-ARS, WSU, BC Ministry of Ag, and PCM

Northwest SWD Information Websites

[Peerbolt Crop Management](#)

[Oregon State Univ.](#)

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

[WSU Westside](#)

[WSU Eastside](#)

New SWD Resources

- [Spotted Wing Drosophila control on Sweet Cherry in Eastern Washington](#) (4/13/11)
- [Protecting Garden Fruits from Spotted Wing Drosophila](#) (4/11) *New OSU Extension Publication for home owners*
- [Provisionary Guidelines: Management of Spotted Wing Drosophila in Home Garden Situations](#) (Updated 3/11, UC IPM)

Monitoring Reports

Monitoring traps and programs are just getting set up and will be expanded over the next few weeks.

California coast: (4/29) Virtually no flies caught in sugar-yeast-water traps or apple cider vinegar traps, nor in vacuuming. Fruit production has been going on for about two weeks. We shall see...

Southern Oregon: (OSU Extension) No report this past week but a few sites have been monitored throughout the off season. One of particular note with the highest counts is a fig tree near compost piles.

Recent counts from this site: 1/25-2/1: 118 M: 512 F, 2/1-2/8: 296 M/808 F, 2/8-2/14: 119 M/316 F, 2/14-2/21: 33 M/60 F, 2/21-2/3/3: 48 M/236 F, 3/3-3/10: 41 M/93 F, 3/10-3/17: 27 M/67 F, 3/24-3/31: 3 M/19 F, 3/31-4/8: 8 M/8 F, 4/8-4/14: 12 M/6 F.

Willamette Valley--Corvallis to the Washington border: (4/29) (Peerbolt Crop Mgmt) We've got about 70 traps out in the grant funded program and close to the same number in client fields. Only one site had counts this past week (3 males/6 females). Last year had sporadic catches at this same time but we were ahead in degree days from where we are now.

Hood River: (4/29) (OSU Extension) Pears are in bloom, cherries are starting and the bees are still in bed. We have about 30 SWD traps out, zero capture. We will start expanding our sites and trap numbers this coming week.

Southwest Washington: (4/29) (Peerbolt Crop Mgmt) We've got about 35 traps out in the grant funded program and client fields combined. No catches this past week.

Eastern Washington: (4/28) (WSU Extension) [Click here](#). This site has a 'score card' for 15 fruit growing regions on the east side. Traps are deployed in all the regions and so far no SWD adults have been recovered.

Western British Columbia: (4/29) (Ag Canada) In Agassiz and Abbotsford, I have 15 Contech traps out in a variety of habitats, most of which were known to host SWD last year. The traps have been out since April 7. So far no SWD have been trapped.

General Comments

- ***Identifying early 'hotspots' and breeding sites is of critical importance right now. We'll only get one chance each year to look at this. If you've got any information that can help find these spots, please contact one of the principals involved in the monitoring program in your area.***
- Reports of trap catches ranging from the central California coast to the Fraser Valley in the north and the Hood River region to the east have remained very low over the past couple of weeks with almost all traps recording no catches.
- As the growing season is picking up speed, many more monitoring traps are being deployed and will continue to be over the next month.
- This week's warming and drying trend are anticipated to lead to an increase in SWD flying activity and higher trap counts.
- Dr. Bev Gerdeman at the WSU Mt. Vernon Research & Extension Station has been extensively examining overwintering SWD females and has found them to still be in 'reproductive diapause'. Meaning that, while they are carrying eggs, they do not yet have the ability to lay viable eggs into any fruit hosts.
- Some of the major goals of the early season monitoring program are:
 - Evaluating the size and extent of the overwintering population.
 - Determining within what fruit hosts the first new generation of SWD can emerge.

- Examining the overwintering females & determining when they are capable of laying viable eggs.
- Testing a range of monitoring trap designs for efficacy and ease of use.

Highlights from OSU/USDA Informational Meeting held on 4/21

- SWD has been identified in Mexico as of February, 2011
- Overwintering trap counts had a 3 females to 1 male sex ratio.
- Spraying an insecticide in late season for the purpose of killing of the overwintering population does not appear to be an economic strategy since the vast majority dies during the winter anyway and it only takes a very small number of survivors to establish the next year's population.
- This coming season will see a lot of active field and lab research including spray trials, trap designs, trap baits, protocols for larval monitoring in fruit, genetic analyses of the populations, and evaluation of bio-control options.

SWD spreads around North America...

- (Eastern Washington) [Growers, researchers gear up for drosophila orchard battle](#) (5/2, Capital Press)
- (North Carolina) [NC Small Fruit IPM information](#) (4/29) *No SWD recovered yet this season.*
- (Pennsylvania) [PA IPM, Spring 2011](#) Page 4 (of 6) *has a great photo comparison of SWD & some of the look a likes.*
- [Michigan State University SWD website](#)

New Pest Management & IPM Information

Control Material Information

- [Fungicide Update for Blueberries](#) (5/3, MSU) *This is targeted for Michigan growers but most of it applies to our area also.*

Insects

- **Root Weevils, strawberries.** Newly emerged adult Strawberry and Rough Strawberry root weevils are now being found in southern strawberry fields. Click on the following links for further weevil information: [Black Vine](#), [Rough Strawberry](#), [Strawberry Root Weevils](#). It takes about 4 weeks from emergence for adult weevils to begin laying eggs so the first insecticide application should be timed to kill the adults after most have emerged but before these first adults are 28 days old.

Ongoing Pest Management & IPM Information

Diseases

- [Downey Mildew](#), boysenberries, Kotata blackberries (occasionally other blackberries): This is a systemic disease that only displays symptoms if environmental conditions are right in the spring. It can cause major losses due to misshapen berries. A distinctive red leaf pattern is also diagnostic of the disease. Phosphite applications in the spring are recommended to prevent outbreaks.
- [March Flies](#), incidental insect: This 'fly' clogs up our field insect traps and is everywhere this time of year.
- [Purple Blotch](#) blackberries
- [Pseudomonas \(Bacterial Blight\)](#)
- **Risk is high:** [Mummyberry](#) blueberries. See [alert](#).
- **Risk is high:** [Blackberry Rust](#) (Phragmidium Rust) Evergreen blackberries. See [alert](#).
- [Phytophthora Root Rot](#) raspberries

Viruses

- **Prime Time to scout for:** [Shock virus](#), blueberries. Symptoms are just becoming visible in many fields.
- **Prime Time to treat for:** [Aphids/Scorch virus](#), northern blueberries. Pre bloom aphid control is strongly recommended in blueberry fields infected with or in close proximity to fields infected with [Scorch virus](#). *This disease is most prevalent in B.C.*

Insects/Mites

- **Prime Time to scout for:** [Winter Moth/Bruce Span Worm](#) blueberries.

- **Prime Time to scout for: [Clay Colored Weevils](#) northern raspberries and blueberries.** Some young blueberry fields in British Columbia are reported to have been damaged by high levels of Clay Colored weevils.
- **[Raspberry Beetle](#), northern raspberries.** This small beetle can cause fruit damage and be a major contaminant in northern raspberry fields.
- **[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.
- **[Strawberry Crown Moth](#), southern strawberries.** It's now possible to find the larvae in the crowns of strawberry plants in some SW Washington fields.
- **[Leafroller larvae](#), blueberries.**
- **[Blueberry Gall Midge](#), southern blueberries.**
- **[Lecanium scale](#) blueberries.**

Meeting Information

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

May 5 — Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission meeting ~ 6 pm, Langdon Farms. Call 541-758-4043 or [email](#) Philip Gutt for more information.

May 6 & 13 — Pesticide Applicator Training ~ A 10-hour class in English over two Friday mornings on Friday May 6th & 13th, at Linn-Benton Community College, Albany Campus CC-213. [Click for agenda](#) cost and other information. Call (541) 917-4923 to reserve space.

May 17 — Skagit County Spotted Wing Drosophila & Brown Marmorated Stink Bug workshop ~ WSU Mount Vernon, NWREC, 16650 State Route, 536 Mount Vernon, WA, 98273. Commercial Growers (9AM to Noon); Home Gardeners (1 to 2:30PM). [Click here](#) for more information, including how to RSVP.

June 7 — Washington Blueberry Commission meeting ~ Commission conference call. Contact [Alan Schreiber](#) 509-266-4300 for more information.

June 15 — North Willamette Research Station Strawberry Open House ~ 1pm. 15210 NE Miley Road, Aurora, OR 97002. Call 503-678-1264 for more information.

June 22-26 — The 10th International Rubus and Ribes Symposium ~ Zlatibor, Serbia. To register and for more information [click here](#) or contact: [Prof. Dr. Mihailo Nikolic](#), Faculty of Agriculture, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia. Phone: (381)63 801 99 23. Or contact [Brankica Tanovic](#), Pesticide & Environment Research Inst., Belgrade, Serbia. Phone: (381) 11 31 61 773.

June 27-29 — 4th Biennial Berry Health Benefits Symposium ~ West Lake Village, CA. Conference focuses on berries and their impact on human health and wellness. Cutting edge research presentations from International scientists in the field. Special one day session for berry industry on how to implement the berry health message into marketing and R & D programs. Visit www.berryhealth.org to learn more or contact Cat McKenzie - catmc@peak.org or call 541-456-2264.

July 6 — North Willamette Research Station Caneberry Open House ~ 1pm. 15210 NE Miley Road, Aurora, OR 97002. Call 503-678-1264 for more information.

July 13 — North Willamette Research Station Blueberry Field Day ~ 1pm. 15210 NE Miley Road, Aurora, OR 97002. Call 503-678-1264 for more information.

July 22 & 23 — "Eat Your Berries!- The Oregon Berry Festival" ~ 11am- 6 pm. Portland, OR. Ecotrust Building, 721 NW 9th Ave (NW 10th & Johnson). Taste and buy some of the season's best berries and also sample amazing products made with Oregon's berry bounty. [Click here](#) for details.

Crop work

All crops

- Scout for voles and treat as needed.
 - *Zinc phosphide baits cannot be used after bud break.*
- Weed management.
- Fertilizer program.
- Can put out monitoring traps for Spotted Wing Drosophila.

Blueberries

- Weed management note: [Callisto \(mesotrione\)](#) can only be used before bloom.

- [Click here](#) for information from OSU on the new herbicide options in blueberries.
- [Spring herbicide choice for blueberries](#), (MSU)
- Scout for Winter Moth/Spanworm and treat as needed.
- Can apply Bacterial Blight (*Pseudomonas*) management materials.
 - [Click here](#) for information on 'Copper products, characteristics and uses' (MSU)
- 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.
- Scout for virus symptoms & send in samples for testing as needed.
- Bring in bees around 10-15% bloom.
- Scout for scale insects.
- Scout for weevil notching.

Blackberries

- Scout for Purple Blotch lesions in Marion berries to assess field disease levels for later treatments.
- 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.
- Bring in bees by 10% bloom.

Evergreen Blackberries

- Scout for blackberry rust and treat as needed.

Raspberries

- Burn back primocanes as needed.
- (northern areas) Scout for Clay Colored Weevil feeding and treat as needed.
- Scout for Cane Blight and Cane Botrytis symptoms.
- Scout for virus symptoms & send in samples for testing as needed.
- Can apply a phosphite material for stronger root growth and root rot prevention.
- Scout for Yellow Rust and assess treatment options.
- Scout for spider mites and treat as needed.

Strawberries

- As plants start to grow, watch for weak growing areas and check plants for weevil larvae, root rot and/or cold damage.
- Scout for weevil adults and notching (South).
- (Southern strawberries) Can scout for Strawberry Crown Moth larvae.
- Prepare for bloom in the south. At 10% bloom, can apply a fungicide for fruit/blossom rot.
- Can apply a phosphite material for stronger root growth and root rot prevention.
- Can till row centers and/or narrow down the matted rows.
- Can apply slug bait.
- Scout for Powdery Mildew and treat as needed.
- Scout for Two Spotted Spider Mites and predatory, beneficial mites.
- Scout for aphids.

[Click here](#) to go back to the top of this newsletter.

Archived Small Fruit Updates

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

[04-26-11](#)

[04-19-11](#)

[04-12-11](#)