

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 18, 2011

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Video of the week: [Rain Delays Oregon Harvest](#) (KGW.com) -Local strawberry grower makes the news.

Featured links: OSU Berry newsletters go electronic:

- [OSU Caneberry Newsletter](#) (May, 2011)
- [OSU Strawberry Newsletter](#) (May, 2011)

New Website: [Strawberry Research News](#) -The California Strawberry Commission has just launched this site.

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

Notice for U.S. Processed Raspberry Growers

You will have the opportunity to vote on forming a National Processed Red Raspberry Council

USDA To Hold Referendum for Processed Raspberry Program (Growing Produce, 5/9)

When: Ballots will be going out to growers on June 1st and need to be returned between June 8th and June 24th.

For Information: A recent mailing went out from the Washington Red Raspberry Commission with details and will shortly be going out from the Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission. You can also call either commission office for information.

WRRC: 360-354-8767. **ORBC:** 360-758-4043.

Upcoming Informational Meetings:

- **Wednesday, May 25:** 9 am at the Oak Tree Restaurant in Woodland, WA.
- **Wednesday, May 25:** 2 pm at the North Willamette R & E Center, Aurora, OR.

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](#)

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: (Monday, 5/16)** Bloom on blueberries is starting to come quite quickly now that warmer air is present. Still fighting with rainy days and wet fields to apply first bloom sprays. But, for the most part they are on. We're looking to start first nitrogen applications late this week. Quite a bit of shock showing in all areas of the Fraser valley.
- **Raspberries: (Monday, 5/16)** Raspberries finally made some impressive gains in colour and lateral size this past week with the advent of warmer conditions. Unfortunately, the bad fields really stand out now. Lots of Yellow Rust infection showing in Meeker, Chemainus, Malahat. Protective sprays are needed as soon as possible. A tremendous amount of weevil activity and damage still occurring. I wonder what the fields will look like when it really warms up. There has to be considerable root rot damage after all this wet weather. A tough startup for raspberries this year.

Northern Washington, Whatcom County

- **Blueberries, Strawberries and Raspberries: (Saturday, 5/14)** OK, another week in paradise. 1.5 inches of rain Tuesday & Wednesday filled the low spots again. At least it's warmer. Blueberries- wrapping up 1st bloom spray, ½ to full bloom coming on fast. Small amount of shock showing up. Strawberries- Yay, starting to bloom, will apply 1st bloom spray this week. Raspberries- young fields good, old fields bad, still real sporadic lateral growth. Burning side shoots between the wind and rain. Heavy rain predicted May 14 & 15- hope they are wrong.

Northern Washington, Skagit County

- **Blueberries: (Tuesday, 5/17)** 2nd bloom sprays going on in organic blues today. Using Serenade ASO and Actinovate AG despite the lack of proven efficacy in university trials....it's all we have. Starting humic acid crown drench followed 72 hrs later by fish emulsion drench. Foliar fish/fulvic acid/calcium spray last dry spell appears to have perked up the organic blacks but could just be the sunshine. BB rows with weed mat under are limited to liquid nutrition; 2nd of split dry fertilizer application went on the blocks without weed mat last week, a little late. SWD traps put out just to compare with last season's fly activity; don't really expect to go after them until June. Dr. Lionel T. and the WSU folks put on a really good SWD growers information meeting this a.m. in Mt. Vernon. The Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) looks like a fun challenge, particularly for organic growers. I remember those stink bugs as a kid in Pennsylvania: certainly well named...

Willamette Valley, Oregon and SW Washington

- **Strawberries and Caneberries: (Friday, 5/13)** Bloom applications are in progress on strawberries and blueberries. Caneberries—just no bloom yet...it's got to happen this week, doesn't it? Decent pollination weather. Just, without any real warmth plant growth seems both slow and soft in strawberries and caneberries. Hard to believe the root growth can be good given the cool, wet soils. However, the markets look decent, the crops are intact and we don't have 40 feet above flood level. Now that's too much water. Count our blessings, right?
- **Blueberries: (Saturday, 5/14)** At Salem we just completed our 2nd bloom spray. First noticeable aphids appeared this week and mature lady bird beetles with them; so, we'll let the tug of war between them proceed. Occasionally we'll find withered bloom clusters from unknown causes, but the flower set is so heavy we won't mourn the few casualties. Shock is severe in Bluegold and modest in Duke, Aurora, Liberty and Draper. Our first fertigation of the season is in place, but the plants certainly didn't need the extra water. Duke looks good with small green berries sizing rapidly. Aurora and Elliott just past 10% bloom.
- **Blackberries: (Tuesday, 5/17)** Some Silvans and Black Diamonds were starting to bloom the end of last week, maybe 1%. Should mean Marions and Boysens will start blooming the end of this week, for sure if we get the promised nice weather.

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Management Material Update

Herbicide for U.S. Strawberries: Spartan (sulfentrazone) From Joe DeFrancesco, OSU Pesticide Specialist: “Oregon and Washington have issued SLN (24c) labels for Spartan 4F. These new SLN labels better reflect the use patterns in the PNW than the supplemental federal label issued in early April. Wording on these labels “mirrors” the wording that growers were used to seeing on the Section 18 label for the past 10 years. These labels are probably the ones growers will want to use when making a Spartan application to newly planted strawberries, after renovation or during dormancy. However, both the supplemental and SLN label are valid for use in OR and WA. [Click here](#) for the Washington SLN label. [Click here](#) for the Oregon SLN label.

Pest Alerts

All berries – Spotted Wing Drosophila *Click on websites listed below for more information*

SWD activity was very low across the region last week with minimal trap counts.

Northwest SWD Information Websites

[Peerbolt Crop Management](#)

[Oregon State Univ.](#)

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

[WSU Westside](#)

[WSU Eastside](#)

Blueberries - Mummyberry [Click here](#) for a Mummyberry fact sheet from MSU.

Mummyberry can infect new growth when the vegetative buds are at/beyond green tip stage. There's long periods of wetness and the temperatures are above 50°F / 10°C. Secondary infections symptoms (wilting laterals) are now visible in some fields.

Raspberries - Yellow Rust

Yellow rust is now changing spore stages and becoming more visible. It should be evaluated carefully to determine whether or not a fungicide treatment is 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.” You can email the B.C. Blueberry Council's research coordinator, [Karina Sakalauskas](#) (or call her at 604-613-2133) for more information.

Northern raspberries – Twospotted Spider Mites

There are reports of economically treatable levels being reported in raspberry fields.

Pest Management & IPM Information

Diseases

- **Prime Time to scout for:** [Powdery Mildew](#) strawberries
- **Prime Time to scout for:** [Blackberry Rust](#) (Phragmidium Rust): Evergreen blackberries
- [Pseudomonas \(Bacterial Blight\)](#) blueberries
- [Purple Blotch](#) blackberries.
- **Risk is high:** [Mummyberry](#) blueberries. See [alert](#).
- [Phytophthora Root Rot](#) raspberries.
- **Risk is high:** [Yellow Rust](#) raspberries. See [alert](#).

Viruses

- **Prime Time to scout for:** [Shock virus](#), blueberries. *Symptoms are visible in many fields.*
- **Prime Time to Scout for:** [Aphids/Scorch virus](#), northern blueberries. See [alert](#).

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.
- **Prime Time to scout for:** [Raspberry Beetle](#), northern raspberries.
- **Prime Time to scout for:** [Azalea Bark Scale](#), blueberries.
- **Prime Time to scout for:** [Strawberry Crown Moth](#), southern strawberries.
- [Leafroller larvae](#), blueberries.
- **Prime Time to scout for:** [Blueberry Gall Midge](#), blueberries.
- [Lecanium scale](#) blueberries.

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Industry News/Resources

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 still searching for a 14 foot or shorter Air Stream trailer that he could modify for the commission's uses for promoting blueberries. 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 samplings 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.

Newsletters/Blogs

- [B.C. Berry Biosecurity Report for May 13](#) Formerly the B.C. Blueberry IPM report, this expanded version includes SWD monitoring reports from raspberry fields as well as full IPM information on blueberries.
- ['The Source'](#) (5/11/11) Market updates from The Produce News.
- [New Jersey Blueberry Bulletin](#) (5/09/11)
- [The USHBC \(US Highbush Blueberry Council\) Bluespaper for May, 2011.](#)

West

- [B.C. blueberry crop under the weather](#) (5/12, CBCNews Canada)
- (CA) [Strawberries overcame slow start to become top crop](#)- County's \$515 million crop sweetens annual festival.(5/16, FreshPlaza)
- [Neighbors, farmworkers ask EPA to ban use of fumigant in California strawberry fields](#) (5/13,The Washington Post)
- (CA) [\(Small\) Valley growers under gun for food safety](#) (5/10, Fresno Bee)

National

- [Food industry presses USDA on Pesticide Report](#) (5/15, Washington Post) *This article addresses the issues surrounding "The Dirty Dozen" list*
- [Produce industry objects to lists of pesticide residue on fruits and vegetables](#) (5/17, Denver Post)
- [April's extreme weather continues in May](#)- "And so April's chaotic, extreme weather continues. Here's what happened, U.S. weather-wise, in April 2011, just in case you're blocking it from your memory" (5/12, Farm and Dairy)
- [Eat your fruit: it's good for you](#)- N.C. State researchers look at what makes berries such a super health food (5/15, CharlotteObserver.com)
- [Blueberries: Making a superb fruit even better!](#)—Mitigating Mummyberry (May/June ARS Magazine)
- [Oppenheimer deepens Ocean Spray blueberry program](#) – (5/16, The Produce News)
- [USDA's blueberry gene bank develops and preserves berries](#) – (5/10, Farm & Dairy)
- [Obama pushes Congress to fix immigration](#) (5/11, MyDesert.com)
- [Blueberries might fight many ailments](#) (5/11,News-Journal)

International

- Chile: [Blueberry exports to U.S., Holland and Hong Kong grow](#) (5/17, FreshPlaza)

Meeting Information

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

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.

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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 20 — Raspberry machine harvesting selection evaluation ~ 1-3pm. Sakuma Brothers Farm, Mt. Vernon. Call Pat Moore at 253-445-4525 or Tom Walters at 360-848-6124 for information.

July 20 — Berry Grower Field Day ~ 3-5pm. WSU Mt. Vernon Research Station. Call Pat Moore at 253-445-4525 or Tom Walters at 360-848-6124 for information.

July 21 — Raspberry machine harvesting selection evaluation ~ 11am-1pm. Randy Honcoop's farm in Lynden. Fumigation Field Day to follow. Time TBA. Call Pat Moore at 253-445-4525 or Tom Walters at 360-848-6124 for information.

July 21 — B.C. Berry Field Day ~ 2-5pm. Contact [Chaim Kempler](#) for more information or call 604-796-1716.

July 22 & 23 — "Eat Your Berries!- The Oregon Berry Festival" ~ 11am- 6pm. 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.

Summer Field days

Oregon State – OSU North Willamette Research Station

15210 NE Miley Road, Aurora, OR 97002. Call 503-678-1264 for more information.

- **June 15 — Strawberry Open House** ~ 1pm.
- **July 6 — Caneberry Open House** ~ 1pm.
- **July 13 — Blueberry Field Day** ~ 1pm.

Washington State – Mt. Vernon

Call Pat Moore at 253-445-4525 or Tom Walters at 360-848-6124 for information.

- **July 20 — Raspberry machine harvesting selection evaluation**--1-3pm at Sakuma Brothers Farm, Mt. Vernon.
- **July 20 — Berry Grower Field Day**~3-5pm at the WSU Mt. Vernon Research Station.
- **July 21 — Raspberry machine harvesting selection evaluation**~11am – 1pm at Randy Honcoop's farm in Lynden.
- **July 21 — Fumigation field day** following the mechanical harvest trial at Randy's ~ Lynden location TBA.

British Columbia

- **July 21 — B.C. Berry Field Day** ~ 2-5pm. Contact [Chaim Kempler](#) for more information or call 604-796-1716.

Crop work

All crops

- Scout for voles and treat as needed.
 - *Zinc phosphide baits cannot be used after bud break.*
- Weed management.
- Fertilizer program.

Blueberries

- Weed management
 - [Click here](#) for information from OSU on the new herbicide options in blueberries.
 - [Spring herbicide choice for blueberries](#), (MSU)

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- Scout for Winter Moth/Spanworm and treat as needed.
- Scout for Mummyberry symptoms and treat as needed.
- Scout for leafroller larvae feeding.
- Plan for aphid control where Scorch virus transmission is an issue.
- Scout for virus symptoms and send in samples for testing as needed.
- Scout for weevil notching.
- Can apply fungicides for fruit/blossom rot from 10% bloom through the end of bloom.
- After petal fall, can treat for alternaria and anthracnose prevention if needed.

Blackberries

- Scout for Purple Blotch lesions in Marionberries.
- Burn back primocanes as needed.
- Scout for virus symptoms & send in samples for testing as needed.
- Bring in bees around 10% bloom.
- Can apply fungicides for fruit/blossom rot from 10% bloom through the end of bloom.

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.
- Bring in bees around 10% bloom.
- Can apply fungicides for fruit/blossom rot from 10% bloom through the end of bloom.

Strawberries

- Watch for weak growing areas and check plants for weevil larvae, root rot and/or cold damage.
- Scout for weevil adults and notching.
- (Southern strawberries) Scout for Strawberry Crown Moth larvae.
- From 10% bloom on, can apply a fungicide for fruit/blossom rot.
- Can apply a phosphite material for stronger root growth and root rot prevention.
- 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.
- Plan to put out pheromone traps for Strawberry Crown Moth in southern fields.

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Archived Small Fruit Updates

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

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