

# 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 25, 2011

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**Video of the week:** [Strawberry-picking robot from Japan](#)  
(12/01/10, UberGizmo)

**Featured article:** [Berry, berry good](#) (on California & Northwest strawberries) (5/5, NewsReview.com) *Great quote from Chad Finn, USDA strawberry breeder: "Strawberries, of all crops I've worked with, have been dumbed down the most," Finn says. "Most people just don't know what a really good strawberry tastes like."*

[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 1<sup>st</sup> and need to be returned between June 8<sup>th</sup> and June 24<sup>th</sup>.

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

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

## Get PDF readers for mobile devices

- If you want to read the Update on your mobile device, and it has a [Microsoft](#) operating system (such as PocketPC or Smartphone), then you can get mobile readers from Adobe and Foxit. Download them from these sites: [Adobe Mobile](#) and [Foxit Mobile](#).
- If your device is a [Mac](#) (such as iPad), you need an app. [Take a look here](#).

## 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](#)

## New Meeting Information

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**June 7 — The British Columbia Blueberry Council Annual General Meeting and Spring Field Day ~ 12-3:30pm** at the PARC Agassiz Research Centre, 6947 Highway 7, Agassiz. Lunch provide at noon. Pesticide recertification credits available. [Click here](#) for the agenda. Call (604 613 2133) or [email](#) Karina Sakalauskas, BC Blueberry Council Research Coordinator with questions.

## Regional Reports

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*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, 5/23)** Lots of bloom in the blues with western valley fields more advanced than in the east, which is backwards from the norm of most years. Early fruit sizing on the advanced Dukes in the western valley. Lots of concern for adequate pollination with constant weather changes, strangely inactive honeybees and a rather large sudden bloom. The forecast for the upcoming week really doesn't look great; so, add botrytis concerns to the list.
- **Raspberries: (Monday, 5/23)** Raspberries look a lot better but rust continues to be a threat with continued wet conditions and newer lush growth. Diazinon (pre-bloom insecticide) will start in about 5-7 days. Cold damaged fields really look tough. I don't think I've ever seen some fields as wet and rutted as they are this season. I thought last season was bad. Really taking a toll on equipment, soils and the nerves.

### Northern Washington, Whatcom County

*We finally got a few days of dry warm weather, now another system is approaching for Wednesday. Still slugging through the mud in a lot of fields. Likely see root rot symptoms real soon.*

- **Blueberries: (Monday, 5/23)** We're getting into the second bloom spray. Excellent bloom, some green berries forming, and shock virus symptoms popping up here and there.
- **Raspberries: (Monday, 5/23)** The early bloom is starting. Pre-bloom Diazinon applications start this week. Some older fields have very short laterals.
- **Strawberries: (Tuesday, 5/23)** We're finishing up the first bloom spray early this week. Boy, is harvest going to be late.

### Willamette Valley, Oregon and SW Washington

*Not many bug issues. Another year to battle the molds...*

- **Blueberries: (Monday, 5/23)** The Duke bloom is quickly ending with an excellent fruit set. We're moving into green fruit. The forecast of wet and cool is going to keep the fungi out there much too comfortable. Already seeing a little of that green fruit botrytis especially where the dead bloom is hanging on. Overall it's a great potential (late) crop. So far, so good. It'll be interesting to see how the late ripening cultivars like Elliott and Aurora do as far as running into problems with having enough time to ripen and get harvested.
- **Strawberries: (Monday, 5/23)** Well past 50% with us getting by on probably three bloom sprays instead of four just because the bloom is getting near the finish this week (maybe...). We're looking at steady rain/showers/wet bloom and fruit for the next few days. High risk of mold infections. Make sure your fungicides are on.

## Pest Alerts

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**All Crops-Spotted Wing Drosophila:** *see separate report below.*

### Blueberries - [Alternaria Fruit Rot](#)

*As blueberry bloom starts to finish, it's time to consider whether you need to prevent Alternaria and Anthracnose problems from showing up in the fruit. Alternaria can infect the fruit beginning at the end of bloom and throughout the fruit development stage, up until harvest. Infections remain latent until the fruit ripens. Infected fruits exhibit a shriveling or caving-in of the side of the berry and can become watery in storage.*

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## Blueberries - [Anthracnose Ripe Rot](#)

If you've had problems with Anthracnose, prevention of a reoccurrence needs to begin at petal fall. Symptoms: First, blighting of shoot tips; then, a few flowers turn brown or black. Leaf spots, when they occur, are large or small and roughly circular. As infected berries ripen, the flower end may soften and pucker. Under warm and rainy conditions, salmon-colored spore masses form on infected berries. After harvest, spore masses form rapidly on infected fruit when in cellophane-covered baskets or in plastic clamshell packs.

## 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.

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

## Spotted Wing Drosophila Update for 5-25-11

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](#)

## General Comments

- There are no indications that any insecticide applications are needed in any Northwest region for SWD management in berry crops with the exception of Southern Oregon where close monitoring of individual field locations with any fruit coloring is strongly recommended.
- 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.
- Hedgerows and field borders are still recovering higher numbers than traps within berry fields from which very few SWD have been recovered.

## Management Material Update

### Spinosyn product labels for Spotted Wing Drosophila management

Information provided by Rich Lee, Dow AgroSciences

The trial work has been completed with to support the new 2(ee) labels linked below.

- These Spinosyn insecticides are also effective on leafrollers.
- **Resistance Management** -- Spinosyn insecticides are in the Group 5 Mode of Action. For example, rotation with malathion (Group 1B) or pyrethroids (Group 3) is recommended.
- **Bees** – keep out for 3 hours until spray dries.
- **Rain fastness** – when spray dries.

[Delegate](#) (click on blue hot link for label)

- 4.5 oz/Acre, PHI – blueberries @ 3 days / caneberries @ 1 day.

[Entrust](#) (click on blue hot link for label) – OMRI approved for organic crops

- 2 oz/Acre, PHI – blueberries @ 3 days / caneberries @ 1 day.

[Success](#) (click on blue hot link for label)

- 6 oz/Acre, PHI – blueberries @ 3 days / caneberries @ 1 day.

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## Monitoring Reports

Monitoring traps and programs are now in place throughout the region from Southern Oregon to British Columbia.

### **Southern Oregon:** (OSU Extension)

- To view a chart of SWD monitoring activity in the area since April, [click here](#) and then select the southwest quadrant of Jackson County. For comparison, 2010 seasonal monitoring counts for all county quadrants can also be viewed.
- This past week showed increased SWD activity in Jackson County. **Cherries** (4 sites): 2 males/25 females; **Fig** (1 site): 3 males/25 females; **Himalayan Blacks** (1 site): 1 male/54 females.

### **Willamette Valley--Corvallis to the Washington border:** (PCM, OSU Extension)

- To view charts of SWD monitoring activity in the area, [click here](#) and then select the county & quadrant. For comparison, 2010 seasonal monitoring counts for all county quadrants can also be viewed.
- The two showing the most activity are SW Multnomah & NW Linn.
- NW Linn County goes back to high counts in February thanks to ongoing monitoring of a blueberry site by OSU Extension).
- This past week showed very little SWD activity with very sporadic counts of single flies being reported.

**Hood River:** No report this week.

### **Southwest Washington:** (PCM)

- To view charts of SWD monitoring activity in the area, [click here](#) and then select the county & quadrant. For comparison, 2010 seasonal monitoring counts for all county quadrants can also be viewed.
- This past week showed very little SWD activity with very sporadic counts of single flies being reported.

**Eastern Washington:** (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:** (Ag Canada)

- For the week of May 11 through May 18, we had no SWD catches in 15 Contech traps baited with ACV in Abbotsford and Agassiz, British Columbia, Canada.
- On May 16<sup>th</sup>, 1 male SWD was recovered in a hedgerow in Surrey area. None were recovered from traps placed within berry fields.

## **Pest Management & IPM Information**

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### 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.
- [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:** [Clay Colored Weevils](#) northern raspberries and blueberries.
- **Prime Time to scout for:** [Raspberry Beetle](#), northern raspberries.
- **Prime Time to scout for:** [Twospotted Spider Mites](#), raspberries, strawberries.
- **Prime Time to scout for:** [Azalea Bark Scale](#), blueberries.

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- **Prime Time to monitor for with pheromone trap:** [Strawberry Crown Moth](#), southern strawberries.
- [Leafroller larvae](#), blueberries.
- [Winter Moth/Bruce Span Worm](#) blueberries.
- **Prime Time to scout for:** [Blueberry Gall Midge](#), blueberries.
- [Lecanium scale](#) blueberries.

## Industry News/Resources

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### Newsletters/Blogs

- [B.C. Blueberry IPM Newsletter for May 20](#)
- [New Jersey Blueberry Bulletin](#) (5/09/11)
- Market scope (5/15): [blueberries](#) [blackberries](#) [raspberries](#) [strawberries](#)  
*The week's stories & fresh market pricing for the various berries from The Packer.*
- [‘The Source’](#) (5/23) *Market updates from The Produce News.*

### West

- (OR) [First Oregon Berry Festival set for July 22-23 in Portland](#) (5/12, The Packer)
- (OR) [Rain delays Oregon strawberry harvest](#) (5/19, FreshPlaza)

### National

- (MD) [USDA researchers shed some light on produce safety](#) (5/12, FreshPlaza)
- [Berry Health Symposium in June to explore research](#) (5/12, The Packer)

### International

- [Scottish soft fruit growers hit by storm ‘catastrophe’](#) (5/24, BBC News) *A massive wind storm destroyed hundreds of acres of tunnel production.*
- [Mexican berries fight for respect](#) (5/12, The Packer)
- (Europe & U.S.) [Strong sales of organic foods attract investors](#) (5/23, New York Times)

## Meeting Information

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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.

**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](http://www.berryhealth.org) to learn more or contact Cat McKenzie - [catmc@peak.org](mailto: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.

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**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**

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#### **All crops**

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

#### **Blueberries**

- Scout for Winter Moth/Spanworm and treat as needed.
- Scout for Mummyberry symptoms and treat as needed.
- Scout for leafroller larvae feeding.
- Stay on top of aphid management 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 and treat as needed.
- Burn back primocanes as needed.
- Can put out pheromone trap to monitor for leafrollers.
- 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.

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- 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 put out pheromone trap to monitor for leafrollers.
- 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 & put out pheromone monitoring traps.
- 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 and treat as needed

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## **Archived Small Fruit Updates**

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

[05-18-11](#)

[05-11-11](#)

[05-05-11](#)