

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.

June 14, 2011

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[New Resource added to the BerriesNW.com website](#) [MRL listings](#)

- Joe DeFrancesco, OSU Pesticide Specialist, has provided us with his listings of Pesticide Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) for berries being shipped to the USA, the EU/UK, Canada and Japan along with the Codex standards.
 - There's a link to them on the [BerriesNW home page](#) or you can go directly to the [Berry Pesticide Guide](#) (also Joe's work) and click on the individual berry MRL pages from there.
 - For more in-depth MRL data, [click here](#) for the USDA Foreign Agriculture Service's MRL Database.
- [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:** (Monday, 6/13) Wrapping up the bloom on Bluecrop this week. Lots of fruit fill. Elliots at full bloom. Dukes appear to be sizing well. We will start an aphicide program this week in many fields as soon as the bees are removed. Quite a number of aphids starting to build in most fields. I've got a few concerns about lack of sufficient leaf growth in some fields throughout the valley. Fruit set has been good but without leaves it will be a challenge to fill. I think a lot of this goes back to cold damage to the canes earlier in the season.
- **Raspberries:** (Monday, 6/13) Raspberries are filling out, but I think lateral growth will be shorter than normal. Early bloom (Meeker) is on and first fungicides are underway. Still some new shoot development that is slow. Lots of Yellow Rust.

Northern Washington, Whatcom County

- **Raspberries:** (Friday, 6/10) Finally a change in the weather, warmer and drier. Still takes a while to drain off the excess water. Raspberries trying to shrug off the Yellow Rust, just in time to host the mites. Most fields filling out nicely, getting into early bloom and the bees are feisty.

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](#)

- **Blueberries:** (Friday, 6/10) We have a lot of Shock this year also, not many leafrollers, very few aphids so far, berries filling and sizing, still some late bloom.
- **Strawberries:** (Friday, 6/10) More weevil spots than we anticipated, bloom wrapping up, berries sizing well, we should pick by the 28th-30th. We could use a bit more heat.

Willamette Valley, Oregon and SW Washington

It's been a great change in the weather just in time for pollination in the caneberries and fruit sizing in the blueberries & strawberries.

- **Blueberries & Blackberries (organic production):** (Friday, 6/10) The warmer weather is a welcome change. Blackberries in the research block are looking good no disease/insect problems yet; crop looks heavy. Blueberries are sizing nicely, the new growth looks good; they tend to be a little lighter color than conventional fields. In organics, it's been hard to get the nutrients they need in the spring when it is so cold. Hoping for mid 70s to 80. Should be applying another spray next week on the green fruit.
- **Strawberries, Blueberries and Caneberries (OSU—North Willamette Research & Extension Station):** (Friday, 6/10) Wow, strawberries are late for us. We should have some ripe fruit by open house at the North Willamette Research & Extension Center on Wednesday (NWREC) ...I hope. At the NWREC, I'm seeing good fruit set on most blueberry varieties except, I'd say fruit set is not as good for Liberty (will wait to see what our data shows us). Too early to have conclusive idea on set in Elliott or Aurora. Caneberries look good for us.
- **Strawberries:** (Friday, 6/10) We're going on with pre-harvest weevil sprays on a lot of strawberry fields. Some mite issues also. There's some fresh strawberry harvesting and we might see some for processed by Monday, 6/20. Almost seems like normal (for about two weeks ago).
- **Blackberries:** (Tuesday, 6/14) Found the first signs of rust in evergreens yesterday, nothing serious but a good time to treat. An occasional bloom there too. Marions, Kotatas and Boysens are at "full bloom" with bees out and about, weather is almost perfect for that. Full bloom sprays going on. I have not seen any water going but expect to see some by the end of the week when bloom is going downhill; it is drier than you think.
- **Blueberries:** (Friday, 6/10) At Salem, we are hunting for "first blue" in the early varieties to help us set a start date for picking. Our earlier projection of a July 8 Duke pick may be postponed with the moderate temps that are now forecast. Aphids are enjoying the cool, moist weather and beginning to get a little ahead of the predators... we'll keep monitoring this one. Shock Virus is still getting everyone's attention in our area with symptoms heavier than normal and some bushes just showing symptoms in the last several days. Some nearby farms showing alarming Shock infections in Duke.

Click on each picture to view a larger image.



Marion blackberry field in full bloom
Photo taken on June 13, 2011.
[Photo by Bill Dinger]



Young syrphid fly larva leaving a trail of dead aphids as it searches for another tasty treat.
[Photo by Jeff Flake]

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OSU Strawberry Open House

Wednesday, June 15 — North Willamette Research Station Strawberry Open House ~ 1pm. 15210 NE Miley Road, Aurora, OR 97002. [Click here](#) for the agenda and other information or call 503-678-1264.

Pest Alerts

All Crops - Spotted Wing Drosophila

[MSU Releases Spotted Wing Drosophila for Blueberries](#) (6/7)

SWD Information Websites

[Peerbolt Crop Management](#) [Oregon State Univ.](#) [B.C. Ministry of Ag.](#) [WSU Westside](#) [WSU Eastside](#)

This past week has continued the trend of slightly higher SWD activity in the Northwest with more traps picking up one or two adults. Most catches continue to be females and associated with wild blackberry borders or cherries, although a few are being caught in strawberry and blueberry fields. A large majority of monitoring traps had no catches. There are no indications of any need to treat any Northwest berry fields for this pest at this time.

Strawberries – Weevils - [Black Vine](#), [Rough Strawberry](#), and [Strawberry Root Weevils](#).

In southern strawberry fields, adult weevils are reaching the stage where they're beginning to lay eggs (about 30 days after emergence). To minimize next year's larval population, they need to be controlled now.

Strawberries - [Powdery Mildew](#)

Warm, humid, dry weather with a lot of new growth provide ideal conditions for Powdery Mildew. Unlike most fungal diseases, this one prefers drier, but humid conditions. Susceptibility is cultivar dependent.

Raspberries - [Yellow Rust](#)

Yellow Rust continues to be a major issue in many of the region's raspberry fields. It should be evaluated carefully to determine whether or not a fungicide treatment is needed.

Raspberries – [Two-spotted Spider Mites](#)

There continue to be reports of economically damaging levels of mites in the northern raspberry growing areas. Evaluate mites to determine if a miticide application is needed.

Evergreen Blackberries - [Blackberry Rust](#) (Phragmidium Rust)

There are infections now becoming visible in some Evergreen blackberry fields. Growers should evaluate their fields to see if a fungicide application is needed.

Blackberries - [Stamen Blight](#)

We're finding more incidences of Stamen Blight in both trailing and upright blackberries than usual. This disease deforms the stamens of the blossoms leading to crumbly, poorly formed fruit.

Blueberries - [Shock Virus](#)

Reports this season indicate a much higher level of Shock Virus symptoms than usual. In particular, Duke and Liberty varieties have been often mentioned as displaying the symptoms. Affected plants show symptoms for one year and then return to production. The virus is spread through pollen by bees. There are no treatment options other than letting the virus run its course. If plants are suspected of showing symptoms in successive seasons, send in a test to make sure it isn't [Scorch Virus](#).

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.

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.

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Pest Management & IPM Information

Diseases

- **Prime Time to scout for:** [Blackberry Rust](#) (Phragmidium Rust): evergreen blackberries. See [alert](#).
- [Purple Blotch](#) blackberries.
- [Phytophthora Root Rot](#) raspberries.
- **Risk is high:** [Yellow Rust](#) raspberries. See [alert](#).
- **Prime Time to scout for:** [Mummyberry](#), blueberries. [Click here](#) for a Mummyberry fact sheet from MSU.

Viruses

- **Prime Time to scout for:** [Aphids/Scorch Virus](#) - British Columbia blueberries - 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
- **Prime Time to scout for:** [Shock Virus](#), blueberries. See [alert](#).
- **Prime Time to scout for:** [Tomato Ringspot Virus](#), raspberries. The yellow chevron- shaped leaf patterns are apparent on the inner leaves of infected raspberry plants.
- **Prime Time to scout for:** [Raspberry Bushy Dwarf Virus](#), Marion blackberries. The telltale yellow chevron- shaped leaves are becoming apparent along with the yellow squiggly leaf patterns of the more common (and innocuous) [Calico Virus](#).

Insects/Mites

- [Raspberry Beetle](#), northern raspberries.
- **Prime Time to scout for:** [Twospotted Spider Mites](#), raspberries, strawberries. See [alert](#).
- [Azalea Bark Scale](#), blueberries.
- **Prime Time to monitor for with pheromone trap:** [Strawberry Crown Moth](#), southern strawberries.
- **Prime Time to monitor for with pheromone trap:** [Orange Tortrix Leafrollers](#), southern raspberries & blackberries.
- **Prime Time to monitor for with pheromone trap:** Obliquebanded Leafrollers in [Blueberries](#), [Raspberries](#), [Blackberries](#).
- [Leafroller larvae](#), blueberries, caneberries.
- **Prime Time to scout for:** [Blueberry Gall Midge](#), blueberries.

Industry News/Resources

Notice for U.S. Processed Raspberry Growers

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

- **When:** Ballots are out & need to be returned between June 8th and June 24th.
- [Click here](#) for the processed raspberry statistics and the economic reasons for funding this program.
- [Click here](#) for the federal Register document explaining this process.
- [Click here](#) for information from the Washington Red Raspberry Commission.
- You can also call either commission office for information. WRRRC: 360-354-8767. ORBC: 541-758-4043.

Newsletters/Blogs

- [B.C. Blueberry IPM Newsletter for June 11](#)
- [Michigan Blueberry Newsletter for June 14](#)
- [New Jersey Blueberry Bulletin](#) (6/06/11)
- Market scope: [blueberries](#) [blackberries](#) [raspberries](#) [strawberries](#)
Recent stories & fresh market pricing for the various berries from The Packer.
- ['The Source'](#) (6/13) Market updates from The Produce News.

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Immigration/Labor

- [Mandatory E-verify bill expected to be introduced](#) (6/10, The Packer)
- [Utah guest worker bill: future of immigration debate?](#) (6/9, The Packer)
- [State laws muddy outlook for Southeast growers](#) (6/14, The Packer)

West

- [Washington farmers enjoying brief spell of higher prices](#) (6/11, The Seattle Times)

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National

- [Raspberry industry to vote on council](#) (6/9, The Capital Press)
- [Michigan blueberry crop looks strong though tardy](#) (6/9, The Packer)
- [Apples top the Dirty Dozen list](#) (6/13, The Packer) *Strawberries are #3 and domestic blueberries are #10.*
- (Florida) [Crates help strawberries keep their cool](#) (6/8, The Packer)
- [Commodities tied to past outbreaks need not be high-risk, produce groups tell FDA](#) (06/13, The Produce News)
- [Excellent quality expected for 2011 New Jersey blueberry crop](#) (6/08, The Produce News)
- [Over \\$16 million in federal assistance for storm victims](#) (6/13, WCYB.com TN)
- [Michigan labor outlook gives grower-shippers reason to worry](#) (6/09, The Packer)
- [Episode details young farmer's enterprise](#) (6/11, The Columbus Dispatch)

International

- (China/Chile) [China opens to Chilean blueberries](#) (6/10, fruitnet.com)
- (South Korea) [Blueberry protocol yet to be decided](#) (6/9, fruitnet.com)
- (Argentina) [Agricultural emergency declared in Argentine Patagonia](#) (6/14, FreshFruitPortal) *Volcanic ash*
- (U.K.) [Angus soft fruit's good natured strawberries hit the shelves](#) (6/14, FreshPlaza) *"The strawberries are completely pesticide and residue free and arrive at the supermarkets in recyclable and compostable packaging to give the consumer the complete package."*

Meeting Information

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

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.

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July 20 — Raspberry Machine Harvesting Selection Evaluation ~ 1-3pm. Sakuma Brothers Farm, Mt. Vernon, WA. 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, WA. 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, WA. Fumigation Field Day to follow. Time TBA. Call Pat Moore at 253-445-4525 or Tom Walters at 360-848-6124 for information.

July 22 — B.C. Berry Field Day 1-4 pm. Contact [Chaim Kempler](#) for more information: 604-853-1551 or 604-819-0175.

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 22 — B.C. Berry Field Day** ~ 1-4pm. Contact [Chaim Kempler](#) for more information or call 604-853-1551 or 604-819-0175.

Crop work

All crops

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

Blueberries

- 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 through the end of bloom.
- After petal fall, can treat for Alternaria and Anthracnose prevention if needed.
- Scout for scale insects.

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Blackberries

- Can put out pheromone trap to monitor for leafrollers.
- Scout for leafroller larvae.
- Scout for Phragmidium Rust in Evergreen blackberries.
- Scout for Stamen Blight symptoms on blooms.
- Scout for virus symptoms & send in samples for testing as needed.
- Can apply fungicides for fruit/blossom rot through the end of bloom.

Raspberries

- 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.
- Can put out pheromone trap to monitor for leafrollers.
- Scout for leafroller larvae.
- Can apply fungicides for fruit/blossom rot 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.
- Can apply a fungicide for fruit/blossom rot through the end of bloom.
- 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.
- Scout for fruit formation issues like cat-facing.
- Scout for fruit quality issues such as mold.
- Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to confirm.

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Archived Small Fruit Updates

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

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[05-31-11](#)

[05-25-11](#)