

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.

December 15, 2011

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Featured article:

- [Global fertilizer dynamics shifting as prices weaken](#) (12/12, Western Farm Press)
- [The Weather Cafe](#) by Rufus La Lone
- [Small Fruit Cold Storage Report](#)

This is the last Small Fruit Update of 2011. Thanks to all of our regular (mostly) anonymous contributors for generously sharing their knowledge and expertise, thanks to all of the berry commissions and councils who support this newsletter, and thanks to the entire Northwest berry community for the opportunity to earn a living among you for another year.

Shared needs, fewer publicly supported resources/people, improving technology, an increasingly globalized market, larger companies, privatized research -- just some of the factors that are reshaping our region's berry industry. Some bring us closer together and some drive us apart.

In general, it's been a very good year for berries although some growers were hurt by the winter weather. It sure hasn't been a great year for our public research support people. Our publicly financed support structures continue to shrink and weaken. Positions not only go unfilled but are eliminated. When Diane Kaufman, longtime OSU caneberry and strawberry extension agent, retires at the end of the year her position will also be gone.

Thanks, Diane, for all the years you've devoted to our growers and industry. And thanks to all of the other extension agents and public researchers, past and present, who have contributed so much to our own success. As Chad Finn is fond of quoting, "We all warm ourselves at fires we did not build and drink from wells we did not dig."

Merry Christmas, Tom Peerbolt

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](#)

National

[North American 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 & raspberries: (Wednesday, December 7) Field work carries on at a good pace with the pretty good weather we're into now in the Fraser Valley. Merry Christmas to all and all the best for the new year.

Northern Washington, Whatcom County

Berries: (Wednesday, December 7) Pruning and tying raspberries, applying copper, and lime or Calprill. Pruning blueberries, applying copper. Enjoying the holidays. Merry Christmas everyone!

Northern Washington, Skagit County

Blueberries: (Thursday, December 8) Some pruning in organic blues and digging started in the nursery. Good weather for a change: we had nearly 36" of rain recorded at our weather station this season.

*".....and not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse."
(Obviously not written by an organic blueberry grower....with weed mat!)*

Willamette Valley, Oregon and SW Washington

Blueberries: (Wednesday, December 7) We are pruning and applying copper and zinc and pretty much looking forward to Christmas. Happy Holidays to everyone.

New North Carolina Enterprise Budget for Fresh Market Blackberries

- [Click here](#) for a working Excel copy of this recently completed document for estimating the costs and returns for growing fresh blackberries.
- [Click here](#) for a listing of other NC State raspberry & blackberry enterprise budgets and pricing documents.

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Event Calendar

- For more comprehensive event calendar, [click here](#).
 - **December 15—OSU Blueberry Pruning Workshop** ~ 1-4 PM, North Willamette Research & Extension Center, Aurora. \$15 Registration fee. Pre-registration required. [Click here](#) for full details.
- 2012**
- **January 9—Oregon Blueberry Commission meeting & research updates** ~ 8-3, Room 202 A & B, 4001 Winema Place, Chemeteka Community College, Salem, OR. Call (503) 364-2944 for more information or [email](#) Brian Ostlund.
 - **8-10:30 am - Research Project Updates** [Click here](#) for the research update agenda. **Note:** *These are committee/commission research updates not the final reports. Final research reports will be given at the annual Blueberry Day at the Oregon Hort Society Seminars on 1/24 (see calendar item below). While these are open to the public & all are welcome, due to time constraints the Q&A time will be limited.*
 - **10:30-Noon- OBC Committee meetings.**
 - **Noon -3 Regular commission meeting.**
 - **January 9—Annual California strawberry production meeting** ~8-12:30, Shepard Hall, Santa Maria Public Library, Santa Maria, Cal. [Click here](#) for the agenda and registration links.
 - **January 12—North Willamette Hort Society Berry Day** ~ Clackamas County Fairgrounds, Canby, OR. Details TBA.
 - **January 16-18—North American Raspberry & Blackberry Conference**~ Kalahari Resort, Sandusky, OH. Educational sessions and two workshops. Held in conjunction with the Ohio Produce Growers & Marketers Congress, with a large trade show and multiple tracks of educational sessions. For more information, visit www.raspberryblackberry.com, email
 - **January 19—Oregon Strawberry Commission meeting** ~ Noon, Roth's in Salem. Call 541-758-4043 or [email Philip Gutt](#) for more information.
 - **January 24—Oregon Horticulture Society Blueberry Seminar**~ Portland Expo Center (held in conjunction with the Northwest Ag Show). [Agenda](#).

- **January 25—Oregon Horticulture Society Raspberry & Blackberry Seminar** ~8-noon, Portland Expo Center (held in conjunction with the Northwest Ag Show).
- **January 26 – 28—Pacific Agriculture Show & Horticulture Growers' Short Course** ~ Tradex Exhibition Center (Abbotsford Airport), Abbotsford, BC. [Click here](#) for Information.
- **February 18-22—International Strawberry Symposium** ~ Beijing, China. These International Society for Horticultural Science crop specific meetings are held every 3-5 years. [Click here](#) for details.
- **March 6—Oregon Blueberry Commission meeting** ~ 8am- research updates, 10:30am- committee meetings, 12pm- Commission meeting, location TBA. Call (503) 364-2944 for more information or [email](#) Brian Ostlund.

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Industry News/Resources

Newsletters

- [Michigan State Fruit News](#) (12/14)
- Market scope: [blueberries](#) [blackberries](#) [raspberries](#) [strawberries](#)
Recent stories & fresh market pricing for the various berries from The Packer.
- [‘The Source’](#) (12/12) Market updates from *The Produce News*.

Food Safety

- [Creating a food safety plan for local growers](#) (12/13, Food Safety News)

Labor/Immigration

- (Argentina) [Farm arrests unfair, blueberry importer says](#) (12/7, The Packer)
- [E-Verify contributes to labor shortages across the country](#) (12/8, Fruit Grower News)
- [Florida farmers feeling pains of immigration politics](#) (12/8, FreshPlaza)
- [State legislatures create problems with strict immigration reforms](#) (12/6, Western Farm Press)

West

- (Cal.) [An opinion of the late Autumn use of lime sulfur sprays in Pajaro Valley blackberries](#) (11/16, UC Davis)
- [New film traps fumigants and increases strawberry yields](#) (Nov/Dec Issue, Fruit & Vegetable Magazine)

National

- [Florida strawberry season opens with more acreage](#) (12/12, The Packer)
- (Pennsylvania) [Spotted Wing Drosophila-What we learned in 2011](#) (11/28, Penn State Extension)
- [Constant challenge of SWD-national report](#) (November, Growing Produce)
- [Which direction are herbicides heading?](#) (Nov/Dec Issue, Fruit & Vegetable Magazine)

International

- [Argentina is taking advantage of blueberry exports](#) (12/14, FreshPlaza)
- [New Zealand berry growers pray for skies to clear](#) (12/14, Nelson Mail)
- [Import blueberry prices to fall](#) (12/13, The Packer)
- [Temperatures bolster Chilean blueberry volumes](#) (12/13, FreshFruitPortal)
- [Chilean blueberry group maps peak harvest campaign](#) (12/8, The Packer)
- [Chile projects a rise in blueberry exports to US](#) (12/12, FreshPlaza)
- [After setbacks Chilean blueberries sent to China](#) (12/2, FreshPlaza)

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Archived Small Fruit Updates

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

[11-16-11](#)

[10-22-11](#)

[10-07-11](#)