

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.

February 14, 2012

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Featured:

- [Wakefield Raspberry--Variety Description & marketing plan](#) (Video, 1/19, YouTube)
- [Strawberry Robotic Harvester Prototype \(plus other CSC research\)](#) (Power Point, 2/2, Cal. Strawberry Comm.) Look at the 5th & 6th slides for the harvester)
- [Chinese inspectors check Chilean blueberries](#) (Slide show, 12/8/01, freshfruitportal)
- [MSU blueberries now being grown in Korea](#) (2/10, MSU News)
- [The Weather Cafe](#) by Rufus La Lone [Small Fruit Cold Storage Report](#)

Time to get the Small Fruit Update ramped up again for another season in paradise. With communication technology changing quickly I'm sure we'll be adding/revising some of the Small Fruit Update functions as well. There's a lot of research/extension presentations from meetings and various webinar type stuff becoming available online and I'm going to start posting more links to them. One of the functions the SFU can play is to be a filter for growers by highlighting off season presentations at the most relevant time. It's hard to remember what you heard in January when you're in the field in July.

It's good to be here (with a brand new & improved right knee) for another season! Tom Peerbolt

New Meeting Information

March 7 — ORBC Production Workshop for Commercial Raspberry & Blackberry Growers~ Full day workshop at Wellspring, Woodburn, OR. 8:00-3:00, [Click here for the agenda](#). Contact Peerbolt Crop Management 503-289-7287, jason@peerbolt.com for more information and to RSVP

Event Calendar

- For more comprehensive event calendar, [click here](#).
- **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.
- **February 21 — Mummyberry Management** ~ 9 AM to 2:45 PM, A workshop on alternative strategies for managing mummyberry disease in blueberries. Eugene Water & Electric Board 500 East 4th Ave, Eugene, OR. [Registration deadline February 15](#).

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](#)

- **February 27 - March 2 — North American Blueberry Council & US Highbush Blueberry Council Spring Meetings** ~ Sheraton Fisherman's Wharf, San Francisco, CA. February 27 NABC Napa Valley Wine Tour. February 28 USHBC Strategic Planning Meeting. February 29 USHBC and NABC meetings. March 1 & 2 USHC meetings. [Click here for the schedule and registration information](#). For more information contact Mary Nezbeth 916-983-2279.
- **March 7 — ORBC Production Raspberry & Blackberry Workshop** ~ 8:30-3:30, [See above for more information](#), contact Peerbolt Crop Management by [email](#) or phone 503-289-7287.
- **March 13 — Oregon Blueberry Commission meeting** ~ 12-noon, Regular meeting at Roth's Salem location. Call (503) 364-2944 for more information or [email](#) Brian Ostlund.
- **March 16 — Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission meeting** ~ Langdon Farms Golf Club. For more information, call 541-758-4043 or [email](#) Philip Gutt.
- **March 20 — Oregon Strawberry Commission meeting** ~ Noon, Roth's West. 1130 Wallace Rd NW, Salem OR. For more information, call 541-758-4043 or [email](#) Philip Gutt.

Information on Exporting to Korea for Oregon Blueberry Growers & Packers

The Oregon Blueberry Commission has just set up a website materials and resources relating to Korean Export program.

- [Click here](#) to go to the site.
- [Click here](#) for a copy of registration materials needed for those interested in shipping fresh blueberries to Korea this year.
- Questions or comments can be directed to Bryan Ostlund at the commission office: 503-364-2944; Email: bryan@ostlund.com.

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: (Thursday, February 9) Pruning blues continues as does some copper spraying. Some pretty good bud swelling out there on fields that are more juvenile or on lighter drier soil. Air temps spiked up to 14 degrees C (57F) earlier in the week which was nice to work in but scary from a plant standpoint. Back to cooler, wetter (normal?) weather for the next little while. Not seeing much damage or disease issues yet.

Northern Washington, Whatcom County

Berries: (Thursday, February 9) We got down to 9 degrees a few weeks ago, hope that helps on the SWD. No winter damage to speak of so far, although some buds were/are soft. Still pruning blues, and following with copper. Raspberries mostly pruned and tied, except for the baby fields. Trying to enjoy the last of the slow season before the madness sets in.

Northern Washington, Skagit County

Blueberries: (Thursday, February 9) It's been unusually warm in Skagit with Reka leading off the bud swell. Canes are in much better shape this year. We're done pruning in organics and sprayed up with copper and a little zinc, lots of conventional yet to go. With mummyberry protection needed soon, I'm wondering if bud break this year will come off ahead of the apothecia (mushrooms-spore release) and help reduce our infection risk? In the organic fields I'm looking at trying Sil-Matrix (potassium sulfate) with Regalia to limit infection at the green tip stage, we'll see, I've not too happy with using Serenade/Actinovate for that purpose. Lots of vole damage under weed mat despite trapping/baiting.

Willamette Valley, Oregon and SW Washington

Blackberries: (Friday, February 10) Most people are training or done training Marions and blackberries in general. With the buds pushing that needs to get done right away. Also, when it is dry enough to be effective, now is the time to mechanically brush the canes to remove detritus—can't wait for the buds to be too far out or they'll be damaged.

Blueberries: (Friday, February 10). At Salem, we are just finishing blueberry pruning. Fruiting wood has good caliper and bud development, similar to last spring. A few open blossoms are presenting themselves on Legacy but this is just this variety's way of showing off its low-chill nature and most of the Legacy buds remain tight. Cane problems in Liberty became even more evident during trellis installation and pruning this winter...whole chunks of crown (some supporting beautiful fruiting wood) breaking off with a push or a pull.

The promise of new South Korean blueberry markets has us scratching our heads on how to protect our fruit from SWD and comply with lower pesticide residue allowances. The winter meetings gave us a few new ideas for battling SWD but calendar spraying will again be the major plan of attack.



Legacy on 1/26/12, Salem, OR



Large section of crown breaking out of 6 year old Liberty

Photos by Jeff Flake

Northwest Berry Crop Statistics for the 2011 season

All figures in pounds unless otherwise noted

Blueberries

- **British Columbia**
 - 2011 Total: 95 million (43 million kilograms) *Source: B.C. Blueberry Council*
 - 2010 Total 90 million (50,000,000 fresh / 40,000,000 processed) *Source: NABC*
- **Washington State**
 - 2011 Total: 59,445,000 (29,825,000 fresh / 29,619,000 processed) *Source: Washington State Blueberry Commission*
 - 2010 Total: 39,000,000 (10,500,000 fresh / 28,500,000 processed) *Source: NABC*
- **Oregon**
 - 2011 Total: 64,940,000 (32,349,000 fresh / 28,593,000 processed) *Source: Oregon Blueberry Commission*
 - 2010 Total 54,000,000 (26,800,000 fresh / 27,200,000 processed) *Source: NABC*

Red Raspberries

- **British Columbia**
 - 2011 Total: 22,545,000 *Source: B.C. Raspberry Development Council*
 - 2010 Total: 20,500,000 *Source: B.C. Raspberry Development Council*
- **Washington State**
 - 2011 Total: 72,233,000 *Source: Washington Red Raspberry Commission*
 - 2010 Total: 59,750,000 *Source: Washington Red Raspberry Commission*
- **Oregon**
 - 2011 Total: 5,002,000 *Source: Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission*
 - 2010 Total: 4,079,000 *Source: Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission*

Black Raspberries

- **Oregon** *Source: Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission*
 - 2011 Total: 2,072,000 *Source: Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission*
 - 2010 Total: 1,531,000 *Source: Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission*

Blackberries

British Columbia & Washington State don't collect assessments on blackberries or track their compiled yield figures. Oregon far outweighs either of these other states in blackberry production.

- **Oregon** *Source: Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission*
 - 2011 Total 51,396,000 2010 Total 41,275,000
 - § Marionberry 26,228,000 18,082,000
 - § Silvan 6,099,000 5,925,000
 - § Kotata 3,829,000 3,194,000

§	Chester	3,211,000	3,116,000
§	Evergreen	2,829,000	4,376,000
§	Black Diamond	2,613,000	(2011 is first year that B.D. is broken out of 'other' category)
§	Boysenberry	2,432,000	1,862,000
§	Other	4,154,000	4,721,000

Strawberries

- **Washington State** Source: *Washington Strawberry Commission*
 - 2011 Total: 11,700,000
- **Oregon** Source: *Oregon Strawberry Commission*
 - 2011 Total: 20,250,000
 - 2010 Total: 20,699,000
 - 2009 Total: 19,220,000
 - 2008 Total: 22,081,000
 - 2007 Total: 22,711,000
 - 2006 Total: 19,685,000

Blueberry Early Spring Weather Management Information

- [Using your sprinkler system to protect blueberries from freezes](#) (Eric Hansen, Michigan State Small Fruit Specialist)
- [Critical Spring Temperatures for Tree Fruit and Small Fruit Bud Stages](#) (Mark Longstroth, Michigan State)
- [Frost protection: Tips & Techniques](#) (Kathy Demchek, Penn State)
- [Frost & freeze protection: Blueberries](#) (www.eXtension.org)

Pest Management Materials Update

- **Blueberries, Fungicides:** Quash (metconazole) is now labeled in the U.S. for blueberries. [Click here](#) for the label.
 - **Comment from Joe DeFrancesco, OSU Pesticide specialist:** *"It's main claim to fame is mummyberry suppression but it is a triazole, like propiconazole (Orbit) & febuconazole (Indar) so not sure what it brings to the table."*
 - [Click here](#) for short article on the registration in 'The Grower'(2/9).
- [Pesticide list for Oregon and Washington berry crops: \(Updated 2/1/12\)](#) Joe DeFrancesco's most recently Updated list.
We also post ongoing updates to the online version of this list throughout the year as Joe passes them on to us at <http://www.berriesnw.com/Guide.asp>
 - Some of the changes from the last printed list:
 - § Pristine & Cabrio are deleted from blueberry fungicides.
 - § Dual Magnum (herbicide) is now registered in Washington as well as Oregon for blueberries and caneberries.
 - § Quash is added to blueberry fungicides.
- **Pristine fungicide & blueberries:** There have been some misunderstandings on the removal of blueberries from the Pristine label. Here's Joe's clarifications: *"Retailers/distributors can sell Pristine with blueberries on the label until March 2013 (but BASF states that there is little product so supplies will probably run out before the March 2013 date). Crop tolerance is not expected to be cancelled by EPA so, as long as a grower has product on hand that is labeled for blueberries, he/she can use it, even after March 2013. If EPA does decide to cancel the tolerance, then application will be illegal and any fruit with Pristine residues would be in violation."*

Pest Management & IPM Information

Weeds

- [Glyphosate reliance recoils on US agriculture](#) (2/10, Western Farm Press)

Vertebrates

- **Voles:** Vole activity is apparent in many blueberry, caneberry, and strawberry fields. Management of voles is most effective in the spring before they start multiplying like...voles. Kind of like weeds—get them before their reproduction cycle kicks in! [Click here](#) for some background and biology information on voles (or meadow mice). [Click here](#) for information on how to construct bait stations.
- **Birds, blueberries. Starling management:** Right now starlings are beginning to fledge. Population control becomes very difficult later into the season because they multiply rapidly. This is a major pest species that needs year round management attention.
 - [Click here](#) for a starling fact sheet.
 - [Click here](#) for a starling nesting fact sheet.
 - [Click here](#) for the Okanagan (B.C.) grape grower starling trapping 2010 program synopsis. This is a well documented and well run starling management plan.

Diseases

- **[Pseudomonas \(Bacterial Blight\) blueberries:](#)** Water-soaked lesions can appear at this time of year on canes that then develop into reddish brown to black cankers. Cankers may extend from a fraction of an inch to the entire length of 1-year-old wood. Buds in cankers die. If girdled, the cane portion above the canker dies.

Insects/Mites

- **[Winter Moth/ Bruce Span Worm blueberries:](#)** Scouting for winter moth larvae should start as soon as the buds start swelling. We've had reports in previous years of problems beginning this early but it's usually in a couple of weeks. More of an ongoing issue in the northern growing regions but also an occasional, locally severe problem in some Oregon and SW Washington fields.
- **Scale blueberries:** A dormant oil can be used while blueberries are dormant.

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Industry News/Resources

Newsletters

- [Michigan State Fruit News](#) (2/14)
- [US Highbush Blueberry Council's Bluespaper for February](#)
- [Imperial Frozen Foods—Market Update](#) (1/26)

Food Safety website

- [On-Farm Food Safety Project Website](#) *This is a collaborative effort by industry, various extensions, and the USDA to make Food Safety resources available and legible to small & mid-scale fruit & vegetable growers. It's a great resource.*

Magazine compilations

- The Packer's Market scope: [blueberries](#) [blackberries](#) [raspberries](#) [strawberries](#)
Recent stories & fresh market pricing for the various berries from The Packer.
- Growing Produce: [Recent Berry Articles](#)
- 'The Source' (2/8) *Market updates from The Produce News.*

Labor/Immigration

- [Farmers still fighting for immigrant guest-worker program](#) (2/9, Miami Herald)
- [Washington farmers, immigrant groups team up to support measure aiming to slow down spread of E-Verify](#) (1/28, Oregonian)
- [American/Western Fruit Grower Outlook 2012](#) (Recent comments for 'industry association leaders) *I've listed this under labor because the big issue brought up as dominating 2012 is E-Verify. Interesting comments.*

Health

- [Study: Blueberry wine boasts bounty of antioxidants](#) (2/3, Growing Produce)
- [Raspberry ketones: facts about the new natural fat burner](#) (2/7, Int. Business News)
- [Black raspberries prevent colorectal cancer](#) (2/9, NaturalNews.com)

Research

- [Banking on berries with bite](#) (9/15/01, Growing Produce) *Researchers flesh out findings on texture traits.*

- [NARBA awards blackberry breeder](#) (1/31, Fruit Grower News) *Blackberry varieties developed by Dr. Clark include Ouachita, Natchez, Navajo, Apache, Kiowa, Arapaho, Choctaw, and the primocane varieties, Prime Jim and Prime Jan, and Prime Ark 45. [Click here](#) for a photo of John with Prime Ark 45.*
- [Cornell releases new strawberry variety, Herriot](#) (Feb issue, Fruit & Vegetable magazine)
- [Raspberry production under cover](#) (Feb issue, Fruit & Vegetable magazine)

West

- [Oregon farmers may find economic opportunity yields land-use complications](#) (1/27, Oregonian)
- (Cal. Strawberries) [Ideal weather holds promise of excellent early Southern California crop](#) (2/8, Produce News)
- [Be mine: California strawberries ready for Valentine's Day](#) (2/9, The Packer)
- [Strawberry business on the rebound at food service](#) (2/10, The Packer)
- [WSU Extension launches irrigated agriculture information services](#) (1/31, Growing Produce)

National

- [Farm bill on the move as Senate hearings set](#) (2/3, SE Farm Press)
- [Mississippi blueberry growers on the lookout for cold weather](#) (2/13, FreshPlaza)

International

- [Warm weather in Chile affects volume of blueberries exported to U.S.](#) (2/3, FreshPlaza)

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Crop work

All crops: Scout for voles and treat as needed.

Blueberries

- Pruning—finish up as soon as possible.
- Scout for winter moth/span worm and treat as needed.
- Scout for bud damage & determine cause.
- Dormant oil can be applied for scale and winter moth egg control.
- Can apply Casoron (dichlobenil) or Chateau for weed control.

Blackberries

- Can apply Casoron (dichlobenil) for weed control. Especially good on quackgrass.

Evergreen Blackberries

- Can apply a dormant spray of lime/sulfur or elemental sulfur in mid-February for Redberry mites.

Raspberries

- Can apply Casoron (dichlobenil) for weed control. Especially good on quackgrass.

Strawberries

- Can apply pre-emergent herbicides. Spartan (Sulfentrazone) needs to go on before the end of February.

Archived Small Fruit Updates

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

[01-10-12](#)

[12-15-11](#)

[11-16-11](#)