

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.

April 10, 2012

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- [The Tough Reality of Chile's Fresh Raspberry Sector](#) (4/9, FreshFruitPortal)
- [Oregon Produce Growers Food Safety Training & Education](#) ~ April 17, 18, 19 and May 2 at various locations—English & Spanish Opportunity for growers, crew leaders, and labor contractors to get information on the best practices in reducing risk of foodborne illness.
- [Food Risk Rises as Import Reliance Makes U.S. Safety Harder](#) (4/4, BloombergBusinessweek)

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

Here at Peerbolt Crop Management we've gotten our new scouts into the fields this past week—nothing like having eyes & feet in the fields. The routines around the office change quickly with four new people running around out there trying to be useful. Information is starting to flow in from the fields.

Some of the first info of interest—the first .SWD adults were picked up this week (the very first week the traps were out) at various locations. This is much different from the previous two seasons with these traps when they didn't show up anywhere for a month or two. With our more mild winter -- no real cold snaps -- it seems that we might have a higher overwintering population and/or they're active earlier this year. Guess I'd better start up the SWD Update section in the SFU!

Other points of interest from the northern Willamette Valley:

- Blues have blooms showing in Earliblue, Patriot, and Legacy. Some Dukes are reported with bloom also—this is late even by the standards of the last couple of cool springs.
- Shock symptoms are beginning to make themselves apparent.
- Seems like a very low incidence of pseudomonas dieback in blues this year.
- Phosphites going on the strawberries.
- Fertilizer is going on the caneberries & on some blues.

This week in the Willamette Valley -- drier with highs consistently into the 60's. Get those bees ready to work!

[Tom Peerbolt](#), SFU Editor

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](#)

Disease Alert-Blueberries: [Mummyberry](#)

Fields at risk should have a protective fungicide on the susceptible tissue at this time to minimize infections.

- The overwintering 'mummyberries' on the ground are now shooting up their tan colored mushrooms & releasing spores.
- Fields are beyond green tip stage when those buds are susceptible to infection.
- We have periods when those buds are continually wet for the 12 hours or more required for infection.
- Our temperatures are often in, or close to, the optimal range for infections to take place (50-57°F / 10-14°C).
- This early critical disease management window is often missed, particularly in wet years like this when it is difficult to get into the field.
- [Mummyberry primer from MSU](#)

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 (Monday, 4/9)

A bit of frost Saturday morning but shouldn't cause any problems.

- **Blueberries:** First fertilizer going on blues in a bigger way this week. Plants are starting to really push now. Bluecrop into shoot expansion with some early first leaves unfolding. Some Reka in early pink bud. Dukes appear to have a little slower flower bud development. The warm weekend we had should get Dukes moving a little faster. Spanworm sprays going on.
- **Raspberries:** We're getting shoot burns done this week and starting to fertilize. Starting to see two spotted spider mites in unfolding lateral buds and early leaves of mid-cane areas. Looks like yellow mites up in the upper loop leaflets as well. We're really going to have to watch for mites here early this season.

Northern Washington, Whatcom County: (Friday, 4/6)

Cold and wet, but next week looks to be wet and cold, just to mix things up.

- **Blueberries:** The second round of Indar fungicide is going on for mummyberry. Frost control has been activating several nights lately.
- **Raspberries:** Fertilizer applications and primocane shoot burn back are in full swing. We're also trying to keep on with getting the new plantings in the ground.
- **Strawberries:** zip—no activity. But we should be renovating right now.

Willamette Valley, Oregon and SW Washington

- **Blackberries:** (Monday, 4/9) Nice break in the weather. Second shot of sulfur going on early blacks, first on late ones. Herbicides being applied and fertilizer going down. Lots to do, get it done while you can.



Marionberries on 4/9/12 Photos by Bill Dinger

- Blueberries:** (Thursday, 4/5) At Salem, early blooms have just begun to open in Duke despite the cold weather. My notes say we saw first Duke bloom last year on 3/17 and had bees in the Dukes at 15% bloom on 4/4. Might we break last year's record for lateness...an all-time late year for us with the first Duke pick on July 11, 2011. Field work ground to a halt early this week with the additional rain and the crews were sent home to rest and "get ready" for the spring push. It looks like we may be needing to band fertilizer, spray fungicide, and lay down herbicide all in the same week. Shock symptoms are evident now in Bluecrop and Liberty but it doesn't look excessive yet (fingers crossed). Thankfully, our 4-yr-old Bluegold block finally appears to be nearly shock-free after 3 years of "near death" shock symptoms. Mole traps are out now but we swear these moles are getting more sophisticated at avoiding the traps. I guess we've killed the dumb ones and only the smart ones remain.....natural selection at its finest. Tom's SWD catches make me shiver. For the last two years, we have had SWD break through our 10 day spray interval in mid-August. If we start the seeing the pressure even earlier, it may be even harder to keep the Aug/Sep/Oct fruit clean. Ahhh, to be a Duke-only grower and all finished up by August! Best wishes to all for excellent growing season.

Photos below are by Jeff Flake



Duke on April 5, 2012—Salem, OR



A Killdeer nest high and dry on the blueberry berm.



*New lake front property at Pan American Berry Growers, Salem, OR.
Lake Labish is usually drained and planted to onions by this time. Aurora variety is in the foreground.*

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Pest Management Materials Update

- **Alert for growers exporting fruit**--Most newly labeled pesticides (such as Quash for Blueberries) do not have tolerances established in export markets. Use with caution to avoid MRL (Maximum Residue Level) issues.
- [EPA denies petition to ban 2,4-D pesticide](#) (4/9, EPA Press Release) *The Natural Resources Defense Council's 2008 request for cancelling all tolerances for 2,4-D has finally been resolved.*
- From Joe DeFrancesco, OSU Pesticide Specialist: *"There are a couple of new pesticides that were just registered for use in small fruits that will be a good addition for pest management in berry crops."*
 - **Strawberry Fungicide: Fontelis** (penthiopyrad)
 - For control of Botrytis fruit rot and powdery mildew in strawberries.
 - Penthiopyrad is in FRAC #7, which is the same as the boscalid component in Pristine, so Botrytis control with Fontelis should be very good.
 - Caution--rotate FRAC classes and don't overuse Class #7.
 - [Click here](#) for the label.
 - **Blackberry Fungicide: Ridomil Gold SL** (mefenoxam)
 - For Phytophthora root rot control in blackberries.
 - Ridomil has been registered in raspberries for many years but blackberries have been newly added to the label.
 - [Click here](#) for the supplemental label for blackberries.
- From Mark Sweeney, B.C.'s berry specialist: *"On the new registration front... for BC growers, Altacor just received a label expansion to include blueberries (and other bushberries). Listed pests include oblique banded leafroller and cherry fruit worm. It should be a useful addition for spring and summer caterpillar control. The pre harvest interval is 1 day.*
 - **BC Blueberries (& other bushberries) Insecticide: Altacor** (Chlorantraniliprole)
 - [Click here](#) for the label.

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Pest Alerts

Diseases

- **Risk is High: Mummyberry blueberries:** See [alert](#) at the top of the newsletter.
- **Risk higher than normal: Phytophthora Root Rot raspberries:** Warming, saturated soils favor *Phytophthora* spread & infections. This is the time to use a fungicide drench in raspberries. Warm, saturated soils allow it to spread quickly.
- **Risk higher than normal: Blackberry Rust (Phragmidium Rust) Evergreen blackberries:** Warming temperatures & long periods of leaf wetness favor *Phragmidium* rust infections. From the [OSU Plant Disease Manual online](#): *"Wet conditions (> 6 hours of leaf wetness) with mean daily temperatures between 49 and 64°F favor disease development. Spores are easily spread by the wind; young leaves at 3/4 expansion are most susceptible to infection."* Delayed dormant sprays of lime/sulfur or elemental sulfur for Blackberry Rust (and Redberry Mites) are recommended to prevent later problems. Rally fungicide is also very effective on this disease.

Insects/Mites

- **Prime Time to Scout for: Mites in raspberries (northern growing areas): Twospotted mites Yellow mites** *There are reports of higher than normal early mite populations in northern raspberry fields.*
- **Prime Time to Scout for: Winter Moth/Bruce Span Worm blueberries:** Scouting for Winter Moth larvae should start as soon as the buds start swelling. This is more of an ongoing issue in the northern growing regions, but it's also an occasional, locally severe problem in some Oregon and SW Washington fields.
- **Alert: There are field reports of damage from this weevil at this time: Prime Time to Scout for: Clay Colored Weevils northern raspberries & blueberries:** This early emerging species is a pest in northern growing areas where it feeds on newly emerging shoots and buds.

Vertebrates

- **Voles, all berries:** *Zinc Phosphide baits can only be used up to budbreak.* [Click here](#) for some background and biology information on voles (or meadow mice). [Click here](#) for information on how to construct bait stations.

Additional, Ongoing Pest Management & IPM Information

Diseases

- **Prime Time to Scout for:** [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.
- **Prime Time to Scout for:** [Purple Blotch blackberries](#): Check for cane lesions that are easy to see as the weather warms but the emerging foliage has not yet hidden. It's a good time to assess disease level.
- **Prime Time to Scout for:** [Cane Blight raspberries](#): A good time to spot symptoms of cane blight is as the buds break. Infected canes will show either no bud break if the cane has been girdled or one-sided bud break if the infection is on one side. Scrape canes to look for rust colored streaks usually coming up from machine harvester scars. There is no treatment for cane blight once it's present only prevention. The time to prevent next year's canes from getting infected is to apply an appropriate fungicide immediately after harvest when fresh wounds normally become infected.

Insects/Mites

- **Prime Time to Scout for:** [Strawberry Crown Moth southern strawberries](#): As plant growth resumes, plants weakened by SCM can be spotted. Infested plants will have a weakened crown and often will break off with a pull on the top growth.
- [Raspberry Crown Borer caneberries](#): If you've had borer problems in the past, this is the time to drench for crown borer control in caneberries.
- [Strawberry Crown Moth southern caneberries](#): In Oregon and Southwest Washington, this borer looks to do as much, if not more, damage in caneberries as the Raspberry Crown Borer. The treatment is the same as for RCB- a spring (or fall) insecticide drench.
- [Redberry Mite evergreen blackberries](#): Delayed dormant sprays of lime/sulfur or elemental sulfur for Blackberry Rust and Redberry Mite are recommended ASAP.
- **Birds, blueberries. Starling management:** Starlings are fledging. Population control becomes very difficult the later into the season we go 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.

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Industry News/Resources

Newsletters/ Berry Reports

- [New Jersey Blueberry Bulletin](#) for 4/4. *Excellent weekly newsletter by Gary Pavlis, Rutgers blueberry agent.*
- [Strawberries and Caneberries blog](#) by Mark Bolda, UC Davis Berry Extension Agent. *Reports on recent insect and disease research & observations in California.*
- [Michigan State Fruit News](#) (4/6)
- ['The Source'](#) (4/9) *Market updates from The Produce News.*
- [National Berry Report](#) *A daily-updated fresh market statistics report on all berry types hosted & maintained by the California Strawberry Commission*

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](#)

Labor/Immigration

- [Washington State growers turning to H-2A in labor shortage fear](#) (4/6, FreshPlaza)

U.S. Farm Bill / Canadian Ag. Funding

- [Thirty-two Senators sign letter in support of specialty crop programs in farm bill](#) (4/5, Produce News Daily)

Country of Origin Labeling

- [USDA plans no new changes for COOL](#) (4/5, Canadian Cattleman)

Food Safety

- [Canadian Food Inspection Agency issues Health Hazard Alert for Pomeberry blend berries](#) (4/5, CFIA)

National

- [Michigan's early winter may spur early blueberry insects](#) (3/19, The Grower)
- [For Two Food Giants, Defining Fresh Fruit is Not Cut and Dried](#) (4/15, New York Times) *What makes fresh, fresh?*

International

- [Drought is positive for strawberries in Spain](#) (4/5, HortiBiz)

Event Calendar

For more comprehensive event calendar, [click here](#).

- **New Posting: April 17, 18, 19 and May 2 — Oregon Produce Growers Food Safety Training & Education** ~ Opportunity for growers, crew leaders, and labor contractors to exchange and obtain information on the best practices in reducing risk of foodborne illness. [Click here](#) for exact date, times, and locations.
- **April 18 — Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission meeting** ~ 9 am, Langdon Farms Golf Club Restaurant, Aurora, OR. For more information, call 541-758-4043 or [email](#) Philip Gutt.
- **New Posting: May 1 — Annual U.C. Extension Watsonville Strawberry Pomology Field Day** ~ 1-3:30, Watsonville Research Facility. [Click here](#) for details.
- **May 2 — Sumas Aquifer Groundwater Nitrate Science Forum II** ~ subtitled "What have we learned since the 2007 forum?" ~ 8:30-4:30, Matsqui Centennial Auditorium, Abbotsford City Hall, 32315 South Fraser Way, Abbotsford, BC. [Click here](#) for the draft agenda. For information contact Bernie Zebarth, Bernie.zebarth@agr.gc.ca ; 506-452-4828.
- **New Posting: May 1 — Annual U.C. Extension Watsonville Strawberry Pomology Field Day** ~ 1-3:30, Watsonville Research Facility. [Click here](#) for details.
- **Correction: May 3 — Oregon Strawberry Commission meeting** ~ 5:30, Langdon Farms Golf Club Restaurant, Aurora, OR. For more information, call 541-758-4043 or [email](#) Philip Gutt.
- **Correction: May 7 — Oregon Blueberry Commission meeting** ~ 12-noon, Roth's West, Salem, OR (Budget Hearing). Call (503) 364-2944 for more information or [email](#) Brian Ostlund.
- **June 3-7 — International Raspberry Organization Conference** ~ Abbotsford, BC. Plans are being made for the one day 8th IRO conference and for raspberry tours in the Fraser Valley and in NW Washington.

Oregon State Open House Schedule

More information on these will be coming as they get closer. They'll be at the North Willamette Research & Extension Center in Aurora.

- **June 13 — Strawberry Open House**, starting at 1pm
- **July 11 — Caneberry Open House**, starting at 1pm
- **July 12 — Blueberry Field Day**, from 1 to 5pm

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Nutrient Management

Blueberries

- Research has shown that the plant takes up very little nitrogen before late April. Recommended timing for split applications in the Willamette Valley is 1/3 in late April, 1/3 in mid-May and 1/3 in mid-June.
- [Click here](#) for OSU's "Nutrient Management in Blueberries" (16 page pdf).

Caneberries

- [Click here](#) for OSU's "Nutrient Management Guide—Caneberries" (8 page pdf).

Crop work

All crops

- Vole management.
- Weed management.
- Fertilizer program.
- Can put out monitoring traps for Spotted Wing Drosophila.

Blueberries

- Scout for Winter Moth/Spanworm and treat as needed.
- (Northern areas) Scout for Clay Colored Weevil feeding and treat as needed.
- Scout for sprouting Mummyberries and treat as needed.
- Scout for leafroller larvae feeding.
- Plan for pre-bloom aphid control where scorch virus transmission is an issue.
- Make preparations for bringing in bees around 10% bloom.

Blackberries

- Scout for Purple Blotch lesions in Marion berries to assess field disease levels for later treatments.
- Can apply lime sulfur for Redberry Mites and/or disease management.
- Can drench for crown borer management.

Evergreen Blackberries

- Can still apply a delayed dormant spray of lime/sulfur or elemental sulfur for Redberry mites and Blackberry Rust.

Raspberries

- Burn back primocanes as needed.
- (northern areas) Scout for Clay Colored Weevil feeding and treat as needed.
- Scout for mites.
- Can still apply Ridomil for Phytophthora root rot management.
- Can still drench for crown borer management.
- Scout for Cane Blight and Cane Botrytis symptoms.

Strawberries

- As plants start to grow, watch for weak growing areas and check plants for weevil larvae, root rot and/or cold damage.
- (Southern strawberries) Can scout for Strawberry Crown Moth larvae.

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Archived Small Fruit Updates

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

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[03-20-12](#)

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