

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 1, 2012

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Saturday, May 5th:

The BC Blueberry Council's Spring Field Day, "Pollination & other Spring Topics". [Click here](#) for details.

- [BC Blueberry Council announces results of Canadian Highbush Blueberry Council vote \(4/24\)](#)
- [BC Berry Production Guides now online](#)

[Expert Perspective...Eat your fruits & Veggies & don't fear the "Dirty" rhetoric](#) (August, 2011; Food Insight)

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

Our industry continues to be impacted by the withdrawal of public institutional support. This time it came out of the blue from Ag Canada (see story below). Striking at our capacity to produce cultivars suited to our region and growing methods, this one especially hurts.

It also reinforces the need for all of the major northwest berry growing regions (British Columbia, Washington and Oregon) to focus on improving coordination of their combined (if shrinking) resources, both public and private, across political borders.

Tom Peerbolt, SFU Editor

Ag Canada shuts down their Berry Breeding Program

From Mark Sweeney, B.C. Ministry of Ag, Berry Industry Specialist:

"Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada has announced the termination of the British Columbia berry breeding program. This is part of a country-wide federal downsizing and reflects a current policy position that government should not be directly involved in cultivar development work. This is a huge disappointment and discouragement to the BC berry industry who have been supporting this successful program for many years and working on transitioning to a new scientist to replace the retiring Chaim Kempler. The berry industry is

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](#)

working with the research station to investigate ways to keep the program going on industry and "soft" funding."

Management Material Update

Oregon Blueberries, approval for aerial application of fungicide

This information just received from Rose Kachadoorian, ODA Pesticide Specialist, includes only the Oregon Special Local Needs label. A similar document for Washington State is anticipated by mid-May.

- **Switch fungicide** has received a label to allow for aerial applications on blueberries in Oregon.
- This is in response to the loss of the option to tank mix Pristine fungicide with an insecticide.
- This label allows tank mixing of Switch with an insecticide for aerial applications.
- [Click here](#) for the label. [Click here](#) for the accompanying letter from Rose.

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, 4/30)

The past week was very wet and things look about the same for this week to start. Really tough getting sprays on right now.

- **Blueberries:** Bloom on blues is progressing but erratically. Dukes were moving and seem to have gone static. Currently around 5%. 1613's showing bloom in some fields ahead of Duke. Some frost bitten fields are very slow. Lots of bees getting placed but I'm not sure they are getting much of a workout with the weather and scattered bloom.
- **Raspberries:** Raspberries have really taken off with the rainy warm weather of the past week or so. Yellow rust starting to show. Continuing with monitoring for mite activity as the canopies increase in size. I would say action should be taken in fields this week if numbers justify it.

Eastern Washington Blueberries (Friday, 4/27)

From Alan Schreiber, Washington Blueberry Commission Executive Director:

- Eastern Washington had record high temperatures earlier this week and has returned to more normal temperatures. We had 0.41 inches of rain in the Tri-Cities on Thursday, which is the second heaviest rainfall I have seen in this area during the growing season since 1999. By far and away the most common variety in this region is Duke and its bloom is in full swing and, with the exception of Thursdays rainfall, we have had good pollination weather.
- A more general observation for the Washington blueberry industry: We seemed to have largely escaped winter injury. It looks like we are going to escape frost injury. Assuming we have good pollination conditions throughout the state, Washington would be posed for a large blueberry crop this year. It is too early to make an accurate prediction for a volume number, but there is potential for a large crop in the plants.

Northern Washington, Whatcom County (Saturday, 4/28)

Another week shot to heck. Got some field work done Monday, Friday, and Saturday. The other three days, not so much. Still very wet in the fields.

- **Raspberries:** Yup, reports were correct. The mites are eating and sleeping, and making more baby mites, really spreading fast. Yellow rust is coming on strong. Miticides and rust sprays and leaf feed are going on between the showers. Deer feeding is evident in selected fields. Most fields are looking pretty green and fairly healthy right now.
- **Blueberries:** Blueberry pre-bloom activity is in full swing this week. The bees are coming in next week. Shock virus is showing up in the Duke and Rekas. Aborted flower clusters are more evident. Still overall things look pretty good.
- **Strawberries:** Fruit spurs are finally showing! Pre-bloom aphid sprays will go on real soon. Fields look very vigorous.

Willamette Valley, Oregon and SW Washington

- **Blackberries, processed:** (Thursday, 4/26) Spoke too soon about not finding rust in the evergreens (*in last week's Update*). I was out Tuesday (the 24th) afternoon and found it in one of my fields. Looked at the rest of mine and some not mine and found it in four out of seven. It's just getting started but definitely there. I'd recommend a spray present or not. I would bet if left untreated the fields that don't have it will the next time we get some warm weather.
- **Blueberries:** (Monday, 4/30) We had a huge burst of bloom in the blueberries with the record high temperatures a week ago. Last week was spent catching up on bloom sprays, bringing in bee hives, etc. I feel like we just jumped into the deep end of the pool. This week brings a return of rain and high temps in the 50's. Bloom is up to 50% on some Dukes. While Pseudomonas damage is minimal, Shock virus is coming on pretty heavy in some younger fields. Gall midge has also been picked up for the first time this season.
- **Raspberries:** (Monday, 4/30) Fields are looking good but we're seeing some of the same issues as the guys up north. We've also got yellow mites and rust both coming on in some fields. The yellow mites are a surprise in that we haven't had these early season numbers for quite a few years. Acramite and Abound are going on for them along with shot of phosphite material and some foliar feed.
- **Strawberries:** Many fields are at or beyond 10% bloom. Fields in general look pretty good. Bloom sprays have started along with more phosphite applications. So...start harvest around mid-July?

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Pest Alerts

Time to scout for and treat:

Yellow mites, raspberries:

- This early season mite is smaller and paler than two-spotted mite and has less webbing. It is being found at treatable levels in raspberries in all growing regions.

Time to treat for:

Blackberry Rust (Phragmidium Rust) Evergreen blackberries:

- This disease is of economic threat to only to Evergreen blackberries where it can be devastating. There are reports of it being present in fields at this time. Treatment is recommended. Rally (myclobutanil) is particularly effective.

Time to scout for:

Yellow Rust Raspberries –

- Yellow rust is now changing spore stages from black overwintering spores (teliospores) to yellow/orange colored 'blisters' (spermogonia) on the top surface of leaves.
- This is followed closely by a very visible, almost day glow orange/yellow spore stage (aecia).
- The fourth spore stage (uredinia) appears later in the season as yellow 'dust' on the bottom of leaves. This last stage is the one that multiplies quickly & can quickly defoliate canes if left untreated.
- Evaluate disease incidence and stage to determine whether (& when) fungicide applications are warranted.

Prime time for vector management:

Scorch virus - British Columbia Blueberries, Vector (aphid) management

- From an April, 2011 B.C. Pest Alert: "Blueberry scorch virus is transmitted by aphids. An effective aphid control program should be used by all growers. **Fields should be treated before bloom with a registered aphicide to control the over-wintering aphids before they reproduce and disperse.**"
- Click on the blue link above for full information from the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture.
- [Click here](#) for the 4/20 BC Blueberry Newsletter by Carolyn Teasdale with chemical recommendations.
- Direct questions to B.C. Blueberry Council's research coordinator, [Karina Sakalauskas](#) (604) 613-2133.

Prime Time to scout for:

Shock virus, Blueberries.

- Infection symptoms are becoming more visible in many fields.

- This disease is vectored by pollinators.
- There is no treatment or cure.
- Infected bushes generally display symptoms for one year and then return to productivity.



Early Shock virus symptoms in Oregon blueberries Photos by Tom Peerbolt

Prime time to scout for and prevent: [Mummyberry](#), all blueberries.

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

- We have periods when plant tissue is continually wet for the 12 hours or more required for infection.
- Our temperatures are often in the optimal range for infections to take place (50-57°F / 10-14°C).
- [Mummyberry primer from MSU](#)
- Secondary infection symptoms should be showing up in southern fields any day now (see below).

Secondary Mummyberry Strikes Photos by Tom Peerbolt



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Classifieds

- *(second week running)* **For Sale:** [Mclauchlan 500 berry washer](#) plus 15 foot inspection line. Great condition, all parts intact & working. Photos available. Located in Tacoma, WA. Contact Dick 253-318-9763, dick@terrysberries.com

Industry News/Resources

Newsletters/ Berry Reports

- [BC Blueberry IPM Newsletter](#) (4/27) Weekly by Carolyn Teasdale, [ES Cropconsult](#). Sponsored by the BC Blueberry Council.
- [New Jersey Blueberry Bulletin](#) (4/23) Weekly by Gary Pavlis, Rutgers blueberry agent.
- [Michigan State Extension news for Blueberries](#) (4/30)
- [Monterey County Crop Notes](#) for April & May Great articles on Day Neutral strawberries including recently revised "Strawberry Plant Nutrient Sufficiency Levels".
- [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](#)

Berry Research Blogs

- [Strawberries and Caneberries blog](#) by Mark Bolda, UC Davis Berry Extension Agent. Reports on recent insect and disease research & observations in California.
- [Team Rubus](#) by Gina Fernandez, North Carolina State Small Fruit Specialist. Reports on issues in blackberries and raspberries from the Southeast.
- [The NC Blueberry Journal](#), by Bill Cline, North Carolina researcher & extension specialist, Reports on issues in blueberries from the Southeast.

Research

- [Eating blueberries and strawberries staves off memory decline, study suggests](#) (4/26, CBS News)

Farm Bill

- [2012 farm bill passes first hurdle, clears Senate Agriculture Committee](#) (4/27, The Produce News)
- [Specialty crop programs win big against competing priorities in draft Senate farm bill](#) (4/26, The Produce News)

Food Safety

- Editorial: [Food Safety on Hold](#) (4/27, New York Times)
- [Designs for improved portable hand-washing stations](#) (NC Market Ready)
 - [Details for large station](#)
 - [Details for small station](#)

Labor

- [Labor Department withdraws ag child labor regulations](#) (4/27, The Packer)
- [Flat immigration rate from Mexico concerns labor group](#) (4/25, The Packer)

National

- [California Blueberry Commission eyes new export opportunities](#) (4/25, The Produce News)
- (Florida) [Some growers see fewer blueberries this season](#) (4/30, FreshPlaza)

Pesticide Issues

- [Alliance launches Facebook campaign on pesticide issues](#) (4/26, The Packer)

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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.

Insects/Mites

- [Azalea Bark Scale](#), blueberries. *This scale's telltale bright white egg sacs on the lower branches of infested plants are becoming more apparent in some southern blueberry fields.*
- **Root Weevils, strawberries.** Larvae of [Black Vine](#), [Rough Strawberry](#), [Strawberry Root Weevils](#) are now being recovered from some strawberry fields.
- [Blueberry Gall Midge](#), southern blueberries.
- **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
- **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.*
- **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.*

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Event Calendar

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

- **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.
- **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.
- **New Posting: May 5 —The BC Blueberry Council’s Spring Field Day, “Pollination & other important Spring Topics”** Noon-3:30 @ PARC Abbotsford Research Substation. [Click here](#) for details.
- **May 7 — Oregon Blueberry Commission meeting** ~ Noon, Roth's West, Salem, OR (Budget Hearing). Call (503) 364-2944 for more information or [email](#) Brian Ostlund.
- **New Posting: May 10 & 11— Western Food Safety Summit** ~ Hartnell College, Salinas, CA. [Click here for agenda and registration information.](#)
- **New Posting: May 23— WSU SWD Workshop** ~ 1-3 pm, WSU Mt. Vernon Northwest Washington Research and Extension Center 16650 State Route 536, Mount Vernon, WA. No cost, RSVP to Colleen Burrows by [email](#) or phone (360) 676-6736 ext. 22. [Click here](#) for more information.
- **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:** [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 mummyberry and treat as needed.
- Scout for leafroller larvae feeding.
- Plan for pre-bloom aphid control where scorch virus transmission is an issue.
- Scout for virus symptoms & send in samples for testing as needed.
- Bring in bees around 10-15% bloom.
- Scout for scale insects.
- Scout for weevil notching.

Blackberries

- Can apply phosphite material for Downey Mildew prevention in Boysens and Kotatas.
- Scout for virus symptoms & send in samples for testing as needed.
- Burn back primocanes as needed.

Evergreen Blackberries

- Scout for and treat as needed for Blackberry rust.

Raspberries

- Burn back primocanes as needed.
- (northern areas) Scout for Clay Colored weevils.
- 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.

Strawberries

- (Southern strawberries) Can scout for Strawberry Crown Moth larvae.
- Can apply phosphite materials to strengthen root systems
- Can apply fungicide at 10% bloom.

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Archived Small Fruit Updates

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

[04-24-12](#)

[04-18-12](#)

[04-10-12](#)