

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 and industry through their commissions and councils.

August 29, 2012

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(8/28, FreshFruitPortal)

- [Farm Forward: The Farm of the Future](#)
(8/23, John Deere Video) *The future ... where your daddy's rich, your momma's good looking, and the farming is easy. Gee, thanks, John Deere.*

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

Spotted Wing Drosophila

An SWD Alert has been issued by Lynell Tanigoshi, WSU entomologist, [Click here](#) for the Alert.

- The risk of fruit damage and economic losses to this new fruit pest for any berry crop still harvesting in the Northwest. It is highly recommended to take all appropriate measures to mitigate this risk.
- In many commercial fields we're still seeing a suppression of populations compared to before the heat wave of a couple of weeks ago. However a rebound in numbers is becoming evident and it's highly recommended to stay on a regular treatment schedule in fields still harvesting.
- [Click here to go to the weekly SWD update for 8/28/12 below](#)

U.S. Department of Labor (part three)

Recent developments and information on the actions being taken by the Federal [Department of Labor](#) (for background information see the previous two SFU's):

From the Oregon Farm Bureau

Has the Federal Department of Labor targeted you unfairly?

"This month, a number of farmers were unfairly targeted by the U.S. Dept. of Labor in the name of the "hot goods" provision of the Fair Labor Standards Act. Blueberry growers had their shipment of perishable fruit blocked by US DOL due to "apparent violations" unless they signed an agreement admitting guilt and paid a large fine, which ranged from \$40,000 in one case to over \$160,000 in another. This was without any due process of law by the department or opportunity for the growers to resolve the issue fairly.

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](#)

If an employer has broken the rules, US DOL has a range of remedies it can and should apply. But everyone deserves the right to fair and lawful enforcement procedures.

If US DOL has contacted your farm in recent weeks threatening a "hot goods" embargo on your crops, please contact Farm Bureau immediately."

Contact Shawn Cleave at shawn@oregonfb.org. www.oregonfb.org

Related news stories and editorials

- ['Coercive tactic' snares berries](#) (8/23, Capital Press)
- [Farm Bureau decries 'hot goods' orders](#) (8/23, Capital Press)
- [An offer that growers can't refuse](#) (8/17, Capital Press)
- [Salem berry company must compensate migrant workers paid less than minimum wage](#) (8/17, Oregonian)
- [Federal crackdown goes too far](#) (8/19, Bend Bulletin)
- [Labor department takes legal action against Michigan farms](#) (8/22, Fruit Grower News)

[Here's a link](#) to the Department of Labor's complaint hotline. If you've got other links or information to help Northwest berry growers and processors deal with this situation please send them along and I'll share them.

Tom Peerbolt, SFU Editor

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, 8/27)

- **Blueberries and raspberries:** We've started picking in some Elliot fields. The second pick of Liberty should begin late this week. A more relaxed feel to activities in the field at present with fine weather conditions and a lot of the heavy harvesting out of the way. Post harvest field activities are under way in both blues and raspberries. On the whole blues look in good condition going into the fall, with more than adequate new cane growth and few obvious signs of cane disease (at least that's my observation). Raspberries seem a little rough, though, with late season mite activity and rust impacting primocanes. It's very dry, as well, so irrigation needs still have to be monitored.

Northern Washington, Whatcom County (Monday, 8/27)

- **Blueberries:** Swd numbers have crashed in the blues up here too. At least where a regular spray program was in place. However, there are reports of larvae in some fruit. Showers are on the way so blueberry picking is speeding up just a bit. 2nd pick of Bluecrop is coming up, 1st pick of most Bluejay is also coming up, 1613's (Hardiblu) are due for a 2nd pick and Liberty 1st pick tomorrow (Tuesday). Draper are done.
- **Raspberries:** Raspberries are finally done with harvest. The post-harvest cleanup sprays are almost done with lots of SWD adults near the bases of plants.

Willamette Valley, Oregon and SW Washington (Tuesday, 8/28)

- **Blueberries:** (Monday, 8/20) Elliotts and Aurora are the main fresh, handpicked varieties coming in right now. Some Liberty, Legacy clean up going on as well as some late season machine harvest types like Jersey and Elliott. Pretty good quality with mild weather conditions. As long as we maintain the spray program, SWD pressure seems manageable right now. I guess even a heat wave has a silver lining although I'd expect a resurgence if we let up on the treatment schedule. Some of the low input U pick fields near us have had some major losses.
- **Blackberries:** Evergreen harvest continues with good quality and yields. No mold or SWD issues with the guys I'm working with. The second pick is just starting. After each pick (about every week) the plan is to go on with an insecticide and fungicide tank mix. Final numbers on the Marion harvest aren't in yet but it seems like the yield was right around last year's total. With the decent price and good yields two years in a row we're seeing an upswing in acres being planted.

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Evergreen blackberries in the Willamette Valley on August 25, 2012. Photos by Bill Dinger.

Event Calendar

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

- **September 12—Washington Red Raspberry Commission** ~ 1 to 5 PM **New meeting location:** [Bellewood Acres](#), 6140 Guide Meridian Drive, Lynden. It's an apple farm between Bellingham and Lynden. They recently completed a new distillery and deli that has a nice meeting room associated with it. For more details, call (360) 354-8767 or [email](#) Henry Bierlink.
- **September 18—Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission** ~ 5:30 pm at Langdon Farms. Call (541) 758-4043 or [email](#) Philip Gutt for more information.
- **September 25—Oregon Blueberry Commission** ~ Noon at [Chemeteka Community College](#), Chemeteka Events at Winema, Building 48, Rooms 202 A and B. Call 503- 364-2944 for more information.
- **September 27—Oregon Strawberry Commission** ~ 5:30 pm at Langdon Farms. Call (541) 758-4043 or [email](#) Philip Gutt for more information.
- **October 2-5—North American Blueberry Council/US Highbush Blueberry Council Meetings** ~ St Louis, Mo. [Click here](#) for relevant information and agendas.

Crop Management Information

- [The future of fumigation](#) (8/8, Growing Produce)
- [Stink bug appears on Oregon farms](#) (8/27, Capital Press)

Spotted Wing Drosophila Update for 8-28-12

This Update is a collective effort. It is composed by Peerbolt Crop Management with contributions from OSU, USDA-ARS, WSU, B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and various Northwest berry industry people.

SWD Information Websites

[Peerbolt Crop Management](#)

[Oregon State Univ.](#)

[B.C. Ministry of Ag.](#)

[WSU Westside](#)

[WSU Eastside](#)

British Columbia Report

From the August 26 Blueberry IPM Newsletter done weekly by Carolyn Teasdale ([ES Cropconsult](#)) for the [BC Blueberry Council](#)):

- [Click here](#) for the full newsletter with trap counts and insecticide options.
 - “SWD pressure remains very high. SWD larvae continue to be found in ripe berries.
 - SWD trap catches continue to increase in fields that have not been sprayed regularly.
 - All fields with ripe or ripening fruit are susceptible to SWD infestation. Late season varieties are now at risk of infestation. Fruit may be rejected or downgraded if it contains SWD larvae.
 - All fields need to apply sprays for SWD at 7-10 day intervals.”
- [Click here](#) for the August 20 SWD report from the BC Ministry of Agriculture.

From the report:

 - “SWD numbers remain VERY HIGH in berry field traps: **Numbers have doubled since the previous week.**”

Michigan State Extension—Recent SWD Updates

- [Sampling harvested berries to detect spotted wing Drosophila larvae infestations](#) (8/23)
- [Post-harvest spraying for spotted wing Drosophila: pros, cons, and a list of issues](#) (8/22)

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SWD in the News

- [Minnesota’s newest fruit pest, the spotted wing Drosophila](#) (8/15, U of Minn. Extension)
- (New Jersey) [Pest new to Somerset County has damaged thousands of pounds of fruit](#) (8/24, Daily American)
- (Rhode Island) [New fruit pest poses threat to growers, gardeners](#) (8/26, ecoRI news)
- [Winning the fight against SWD](#) (8/28, Growing Produce)

Other Regional Monitoring

Oregon and SW Washington Public Scouting Program

This scouting program and reporting system are being funded by a USDA SCRI grant, and a Northwest Center for Small Fruits Research grant.

Adult Apple Cider Vinegar trapping results

I’ve been reporting these in detail until now and am going to discontinue doing so. The adult trap numbers, while valuable in giving an overall impression of population dynamics, don’t correlate well with the actual larval infestations now being found. The links below are the best context in which to view the adult trap count dynamics—in a chart form by county quadrants and crops along a timeline rather than single week counts.

- [Click here](#) for the Home page for the Western Oregon and SW Washington Spotted Wing Drosophila Survey.
- [Click here](#) to go directly to the county quadrant crop SWD charts.

Eastern Washington

- [Click here](#) for the WSU Eastern Washington SWD reporting site.
- [Click here](#) for a chart of 2012 SWD trap catches in eastern Washington.

Guidelines for checking the fruit for SWD larvae

Rutgers instructions for checking for SWD larvae in blueberries

- A recent edition of the Rutgers Blueberry Bulletin lays out their step by step instructions for checking blueberry fruit for SWD.
- It uses the same type of salt water method we've listed below but includes a lot of more specific details that might be helpful in standardizing this process especially for fruit receiving stations/processors.
- [Click here](#) for the 7/23/12 newsletter. The method is on pages 4 and 5.

Suggested methods

These suggestions are based on techniques that various public researchers and industry personnel have been developing over the past couple of years. If any of you have ideas for improvements to these protocols, please pass them along.

For scouts/field checking ([We have created a video of this larvae-checking method.](#)):

1. Collect a sample of fruit to be tested (Strawberries: 25-30 per sample, Caneberries/blueberries: 75 per sample)
2. Put fruit in a gallon size sealable plastic bag.
3. Pour in enough of the salt water solution to allow the fruit to float (solution is: 1 cup of salt per gallon of water).
4. Mark bag with field code/date.
5. For a quick check in the field after a designated period of time (at least 15 minutes) holding the baggie up to light. This helps to see the larvae in the solution
6. For a more thorough examination, after a designated period of time (at least 15 minutes), pour the fruit and salt solution out into a shallow tray and use a piece of wire mesh screen to hold the fruit down making it easier to separate the larvae from the fruit.

For processors or fruit handling stations:

1. Collect a two pound sample of fruit to be tested.
2. Put the sample into a shallow tray and cover with the salt water solution (1 cup of salt per gallon of water).
3. After a designated period of time (at least 15 minutes) use a piece of wire mesh screen to hold the fruit down to make it easier to separate the larvae from the fruit.

SWD Management Resources

- [WSU Spotted Wing Drosophila in Western Washington](#)
- [Spotted Wing Drosophila \(SWD\) Management in B.C. Berry Crops](#)
- SWD pesticide options for Oregon and Washington berry crops.
 - Blueberries: [click here](#). Strawberries: [click here](#). Caneberries: [click here](#).
- [NC Spotted Wing Drosophila—General Information and resources](#)

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Industry News/Resources

Newsletters/ Berry Reports

- [BC Blueberry IPM Newsletter](#) (8/24) Weekly by Carolyn Teasdale, [ES Cropconsult](#). Sponsored by the BC Blueberry Council.
- [Michigan State Extension news for Blueberries](#) (8/27)
- [The Source](#) (8/27) Market reports from *The Produce News*
- [National Berry Report](#) A daily-updated fresh market statistics report on all berry types hosted and maintained by the California Strawberry Commission

Magazine compilations

- The Packer's Market scope: [blueberries](#) [blackberries](#) [raspberries](#) [strawberries](#)
Recent stories and 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. **Recent entry: 8/27—Albino Strawberry Fruit Reports on recent insect and disease research and observations in California.**
- [Team Rubus](#) by Gina Fernandez, North Carolina State Small Fruit Specialist. **Recent entry: 8/24—Rotating Cross Arm Trellis August Update Reports on issues in blackberries and raspberries from the Southeast.**
- [NC Small Fruit and Specialty Crop IPM](#) by Hannah Burrack, NCSU extension entomologist. **Recent entry: 8/24: Flea beetle damage on blueberries.**
- [The NC Blueberry Journal](#) by Bill Cline, NCSU Dept. of Pathology. **Recent Entry: 8/24: Mummyberry on 'Brightwell'.**

Health Stories

- [Study: Berries Natural antidepressant](#) (8/20, Newsmax Health)
- [Scientists find 'miracle molecule' in red wine, blueberries](#) (8/20, CBS-Philadelphia)

Food Safety

- [Food safety audits: How to improve your program](#) (8/17, Food logistics)

Labor

- [California considers farmworker overtime bill](#) (8/20, CNBC)
- Editorial: [California labor bill goes to governor](#) (8/24, The Packer)

Technology

- [Experts weigh in on the State of Precision Ag, Part 1](#) (July, PrecisionAg.com)
- [Experts weigh in on the State of Precision Ag, Part 2](#) (July, PrecisionAg.com)

Farm/Food Politics

- [Farm Bill Now coalition unites groups in push for new farm bill](#) (8/24, Growing Produce)
- [Monsanto, DuPont spending millions to oppose California's GMO labeling law](#) (8/22, Forbes.com)

West

- (Washington) [Mold affects raspberry crop](#) (8/17, FreshPlaza)

National

- [Fall Creek Nursery buys Pleasant Hill Nursery](#) (8/22, The Packer)

International

- [Chile to double its berry sales to South Korea](#) (8/27, Fresh Plaza)
- [Chilean organic blueberry study expected to yield nationwide benefits](#) (8/28, FreshFruitPortal)
- [Peruvian blueberry growers prove small is beautiful](#) (8/27, FreshFruitPortal)
- [Retired U.S. grower takes blueberries to China](#) (8/27, Fresh Plaza)

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Leaf/tissue analysis and Soil testing

Post harvest is the best time to do most soil and leaf testing for nutrient management planning. Nutrient levels are at their lowest and you can get the best information on what nutrients the recent crop might have had too much or too little of.

- **Blueberries:** Leaf/tissue testing and pH monitoring are most critical. Complete soil tests don't correlate well with plant needs as leaf/tissue tests. [Click here](#) to view OSU's Blueberry Nutrient (and testing) Guidelines.
- **Blackberries and Raspberries:** While annual soil testing has been the industry norm, Oregon State's updated nutritional guide recommends annual leaf/tissue testing, with soil tests done just every few years. [Click here](#) to view OSU's Caneberry Nutrient (and testing) Guidelines.

Crop Work/Pest Management Activities

All crops

- Pay attention to new plantings of all berries for weeds, water, insects, diseases, and nutrient deficiencies.
- Maintain SWD monitoring and management plan. ([blueberries](#), [raspberries](#), [blackberries](#), [strawberries](#))
- Weed management.
- Post-harvest—soil and leaf test for evaluation of nutrients.

- [OSU's Blueberry Nutrient \(and testing\) Guidelines](#)
- [OSU's Caneberry Nutrient \(and testing\) Guidelines.](#)
- Post harvest—can treat for SWD if field is adjacent to vulnerable fruit crop.
- Scout for Root Weevil adults [Black Vine](#), [Rough Strawberry](#), [Strawberry Root Weevils](#).

Blueberries

Late season variety harvest ongoing

- Maintain [bird damage management](#).
- Scout for weevil notching on leaves and for adult weevils.
- Scout for [leafroller larvae](#) feeding.
- Stay on top of [Aphids/Scorch Virus](#) management where Scorch virus transmission is an issue.
- Scout for virus symptoms and send in samples for testing as needed. ([Scorch](#), [Shock](#)).
- Scout for [Blueberry Gall Midge](#) damage.
- Scout for berry symptoms like green fruit botrytis, hail damage, [Mummyberry](#), etc.

Raspberries

Processed harvest finished

Post harvest

- Scout for [Yellow Rust](#) and assess treatment options.
- Scout for [Two-spotted Mites](#) and treat as needed.

For late season, fresh market:

- Scout for weevils and treat as needed ([Black Vine](#), [Rough Strawberry](#), [Strawberry Root Weevils](#)).
- (North) Scout for [Raspberry Fruitworm](#) feeding symptoms.
- Scout for virus symptoms and send in samples for testing as needed ([RBDV](#), [TRsV](#))
- Scout for [fruit mold](#) and treat as needed.
- Scout for [Yellow Rust](#) and assess treatment options.
- Scout for [Two-spotted Mites](#) and treat as needed.
- Scout for [aphids](#) and treat as needed.
- Scout for [leafroller larvae](#).

Blackberries

Harvest ongoing

- Scout for leafroller larvae ([O.T.](#), [OBLR](#)) and treat as needed to prevent fruit contaminant problems.
- Scout for virus symptoms and send in samples for testing as needed. ([RBDV](#))
- Can apply clean up insecticide just before harvest for crop contaminant management.
- Scout for and treat as needed [Blackberry Rust](#) in Evergreen blackberries.
- Scout for [Twospotted Spider Mites](#) and treat as needed in susceptible cultivars.
- Can apply horticultural oil for [Redberry Mite](#) management at green fruit stage in susceptible cultivars.
- Can apply fungicides for [Fruit/Blossom Rot](#) through the end of bloom.
- Scout for [Cane and Leaf Rust](#).
- Scout for [aphids](#) and treat as needed.

Strawberries

Processed harvest (June bearers) finished throughout region. Fresh market harvest ongoing.

All strawberries

- Evaluate weak growing areas and check plants for weevil larvae, root rot and/or cold damage.
- (South) Can scout for [Strawberry Crown Moth larvae](#) ..
- Scout for weevil adults and notching.

Processed market-June bearers—finished harvesting

- [Weed Control at strawberry renovation](#) (6/26/12, Michigan State Extension)
- Mow and treat immediately for [SCM/SWD](#) if needed.
- Mow and renovate 2-4 weeks after harvest unless pest pressure require mowing and treating sooner.

Fresh market-still harvesting

- Scout for [Lygus Bugs](#).
- Scout for fruit damage symptoms like cat facing, [slug damage](#), anthracnose, etc.
- Can apply slug bait as needed.
- Scout for [Powdery Mildew](#) and treat as needed.

- Scout for [Twospotted Spider Mites](#) and predatory, beneficial mites.
- Scout for [aphids](#), lady beetles, aphid mummies (parasitized aphids), and other beneficial insects that feed on aphids.
- Scout for fruit quality issues such as mold ([Botrytis](#)).

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Archived Small Fruit Updates

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

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[08-14-12](#)

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This document is a guide and not intended as a recommendation or endorsement.
Consult with your supplier, field representative, or pest consultant.