

# 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.

September 6, 2012

## Table of Contents

- [Regional Reports](#)
- [Event Calendar](#)
- [Spotted Wing Drosophila Update](#)
- [Industry News](#)
- [Crop Work/Pest Management](#)

- [Western, Southern states lead blueberry surge](#) (9/5, FGN)
- [South Korean market a boon for Oregon blueberries](#) (9/6, Capital Press)
- [Brazil seeks to boost raspberry production](#) (9/5, Fresh Fruit Portal)

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

With the season winding down we're also winding down the Small Fruit Update newsletter and going to an every other week schedule. Thanks to all of you who have contributed information this season and thanks to all the commodity commissions and councils who support this publication financially!

Hope your season went well (or still is going well). As always any feedback from you is valued. Are there ways we can improve this service to support your operation better? Are there elements that you find particularly valuable or useless?

[Click here](#) to email us or call the office at 503-289-7287.

Tom Peerbolt, SFU Editor

## **Spotted Wing Drosophila**

SWD pressure continues to build on any late season berry crops. Stay with the program...

- [Click here to go to the SWD update for 9/4/12 below](#)

## **U.S. Department of Labor (part four)**

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

- [Farm bureau and state officials blast 'heavy handed' federal labor investigations](#) (8/30, Fruit Grower News)

## 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](#)

- [Oregon Farm Bureau ramp up pressure on USDOL's improper use of "hot goods"](#) (8/30, OFB post) From the post: "If US DOL has contacted your farm in recent weeks threatening a "hot goods" embargo on your crops, please contact the Farm Bureau immediately." Contact Shawn Cleave at [shawn@oregonfb.org](mailto:shawn@oregonfb.org).
- [Here's a link](#) to the Department of Labor's complaint hotline.

## 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** (Tuesday, 9/4)

- **Blueberries:** First pick Elliotts continues with pretty good quality seen so far. Cleaning up the last of Bluecrop and some 1613s. Haven't really got my head around what impacted fruit quality in mid-season fruit. I thought early season crop of Dukes was of quite good quality. But your comments on high Et rates in August probably are a factor (see *Willamette Valley comments below*). Vegetative growth rates were pretty high all season (due to soil moisture and temps) so this may have impacted what was available for fruit development. Great weather at present is really helping the late season pick.

### **Northern Washington, Whatcom County** (Friday, 8/27)

- **Blueberries:** SWD catches picking up again in the blues- don't back off on your spray schedule yet, in fact may want to tighten it up, say a 7 day interval. Dukes, Rekas, Draper done, 2<sup>nd</sup> pick of Bluejay, 1613's, and Bluecrop in progress. Raspberry soil renovation/subsoiling going full tilt. Don't quit irrigating either; plants need water this time of year too.
- **Fumigation and Soil Borne Disease Field Day:** From Tom Walters, WSU Small Fruit Horticulturist: "The USDA and WSU are hosting a fumigation and soil borne disease field day next Monday (Sept 10), 1-3 PM at Curt Maberry farms' fumigation trial on Willys Lake Road. We'll have a regulatory update from Mike Hoffman (WSDA), a presentation by Trident and the latest research from Inga Zasada, Jerry Weiland (USDA) and me (WSU). Please pass the word on to anyone you think would be interested; thanks." [Click here](#) for a more detailed directions and Tom's contact information.

### **Willamette Valley, Oregon and SW Washington** (Friday, 8/31)

- **Blueberries:** The season's winding down. I guess one of the biggest story lines right now is the less than desired quality of the blueberry fruit throughout the region lately. While improving, it's been soft with below normal holding capacity. Seems like the fruit got a lot of water without the right amounts of nutrients? Cool soils with fairly high ET? Just cool, wet soils in general when fruit was sizing? From B.C. through Oregon it's all the same issue. What it's done to the market, is cause just a supply surplus on the processed fruit side that we'll need to work through.

## Event Calendar

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

- **New Listing: September 10—WSU Whatcom County Extension "Raspberry Fumigation and Soilborne Disease Field Day"** ~ 1-3 PM, Curt Maberry Farms, Lynden WA. [Click here](#) for directions and contacts.
- **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

---

- [Growers get one more year of Guthion](#) (8/31, Fruit Grower News) [Click here](#) for more details and links on this development from Michigan State Extension.

## Spotted Wing Drosophila Update for 9-5-12

---

*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](#)

[Click here](#) for an SWD Alert issued last week by Dr. Lynell Tanigoshi, WSU entomologist.

## British Columbia Report

*From the August 31 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 trap catches continue to increase, particularly in fields that have not been sprayed in the past 14 days.
  - Larvae have been found in overripe berries on many farms.
  - 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.**”

## SWD in the News

- (Wisconsin) [Invasive fruit flies sighted in area fruit crop](#) (9/2, Green Bay Press-Gazette)
- (California) [Berries, stone fruit may be vulnerable to tiny fruit fly SWD](#) (9/1, U-T San Diego)

## 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.

## **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)

## **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](#)

[Click here](#) to go back to the top of this newsletter.

## **Industry News/Resources**

### **Newsletters/ Berry Reports**

- [BC Blueberry IPM Newsletter](#) (8/31) Weekly by Carolyn Teasdale, [ES Cropconsult](#). Sponsored by the BC Blueberry Council.
- [Michigan State Extension news for Blueberries](#) (9/4)
- [The Source](#) (9/4) 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: 8/31—Third Macrophomina (Charcoal rot) find in Watsonville-Salinas production district** *Reports on recent insect and disease research and observations in California.*
- [Team Rubus](#) by Gina Fernandez, North Carolina State Small Fruit Specialist. **Recent entry: 8/30—An update on what's happening in the Mexican berry industry** *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: 8/31: Welcome, Bill Cline!**

## Labor

- [Data on the phony farm labor crisis](#) (8/30, CNBC) Strange story. Seems this one has been out there for a while.
- [Farm labor crisis: phony or real?](#) (9/3, The Packer) A response to the above story.

## Technology

- [Smartphone app provides new way to access soil survey information](#) (8/29, Ag Weekly)
- [Field ID system uses iPads and iPhones to track safety data](#) (9/5, The Packer)

## Research

- [Study questions how much better organic food is](#) (9/4, Associated Press)

## Farm/Food Politics

- [Lawsuit demands implementation of FSMA \(Food Safety Modernization Act\) regulations](#) (8/31, Fruit Grower News)

## West

- (BC) [Blueberry growers are seeing blue](#) (8/21, Richmond Review)

## North American

- (Eastern Canada-wild blueberries) [Blueberry growers appeal for provincial help](#) (8/22, CBC News)
- (Maine – wild blueberries) [Blueberry crop up despite drought](#) (9/5, FreshPlaza)

## International

- U.N: [Action needed to prevent food price catastrophe](#) (9/4, Reuters)

## Central America

- (Mexico) [The blackberry could be a possible option in Sinaloa](#) (8/30, FreshPlaza)

## South America

- (Argentina) [Early ripening for Argentine blueberry season](#) (9/4, FreshFruitPortal)
- (Peru) [Big investment in blueberry cultivation](#) (8/31, FreshPlaza)
- (Peru) [Blueberries are the Peruvian export star](#) (Opinion--9/4, Fresh Fruit Portal)

## Europe

- (EU) ["No bottom prices in soft fruit market"](#) (9/3, FreshPlaza)
- (Germany) [Higher prices possible with blueberries](#) (8/22, FreshPlaza)

[Click here](#) to go back to the top of this newsletter.

## 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](#).
- 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.
- Prune out canker killed branches and remove from field.
- Stay on top of [Aphids/Scorch Virus](#) management where Scorch virus transmission is an issue.
- 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.
- Can take out floricanes and tie up primocanes. *If cane disease or labor supply aren't problems, you can wait to do this cane work until October or later for better plant health, improved cold hardiness and less over-wintering habitat for leafrollers.*
- Can subsoil and till in raspberries after harvest. The soil fractures much better when its dry so it's best to do this before the fall rains start.
- For fields coming out this year, can spray basally with Glyphosate if perennial weeds are present.

##### 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

#### Late ripening varieties now harvesting

- 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](#))
- Scout for [Twospotted Spider Mites](#) and treat as needed in susceptible cultivars.

### 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](#)).

[Click here](#) to go back to the top of this newsletter.

## **Archived Small Fruit Updates**

---

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

[08-29-12](#)

[08-21-12](#)

[08-14-12](#)

---

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