

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 20, 2012

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An interview with Nate Nourse, Nourse Farms.

[In the know: U.S. berry demand and imports](#) (9/17, The Produce News)

[California Giant Berry Farms increases focus on imported berries](#) (9/17, The Produce News) *A company profile.*

[The task of making blueberry consumers 'come back in droves](#) (9/17, Fresh Fruit Portal) *Insights into the past, present & future of the South American blueberry industry.*

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

[Click here to go to the SWD update for 9/19/12.](#)

Washington Farm Labor Association, Labor Issues Webinar Calendar

[Click here](#) for full schedule & registration information

- **October 2—Immigration Customs Enforcement –The Form I-9 Audit**
- **October 9—Hot Goods Provision and Minimum Wage Investigations**

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, 9/17)

- **Blueberries:** Starting into the third pick on Elliotts soon. Size on Elliotts so far has been a bit disappointing but quality otherwise has been good. Weather has been phenomenal for the late season pick and for post-harvest field work.

Northern Washington, Skagit County (Tuesday, 9/17)

- **Blueberries:** In the Skagit Valley we are still running about two weeks behind “normal”. Fortunately the warm sunny weather continues to hold. We have been opening up row covers to speed ripening in blues

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](#)

and have the reflective Mylar pinned down in the row middles as they do in orchards on the East side to reflect sunlight up into the canopy. Organic Elliotts still trailing the conventional in maturity and we are coming to the end of the Liberty with one pick to go. SWD has been a real challenge particularly in organic where we've run out of effective materials to use once the 9 oz/acre max on Entrust is gone. Hate to use Pyganic as it is so hard on beneficial populations and not terribly effective on the flies. Most guys here have been on 7 day spray schedules all season once the SWD appeared. Our local pilot has been booked solid with aerial applications, we're glad to have a plane in the valley again, thanks to Tronsdal Air!

Willamette Valley, Oregon (Monday, 9/17)

- **Blueberries:** At Salem, blueberry hand harvest is down to Aurora and Legacy. Late Elliott is too soft for fresh so we will machine pick this variety after all the berries have turned toward blue. We have not thought of Legacy as a "late" berry but with heavier crop loads, some nice Legacy picking remains into mid September. Even though the September weather has been ideal, ripening is sluggish. Some red fruit on the bush of the late varieties is moving straight to shrivel and we wonder if this might be a carryover from the intensely hot day we experienced weeks ago. SWD treatment continues on a 7 +/- day schedule where marketable fruit remains. Oddly, some blocks where insecticide treatment has ceased have no SWD in the overripe scraps that remain. But, several hundred yards away, another block in a similar situation is completely infested. This makes me wonder if certain spray timing sequences (or product combinations) are better than others. We will have to review the spray history on these blocks and see what might be providing the superior control. We did get some field data this year that Sevin (carbaryl) may not be providing effective SWD control. The price tag (for insecticides) and potential for resistance are my two big concerns as we look at another year of calendar spraying for SWD. I am looking forward to our SWD discussions this winter.

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Event Calendar

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

- **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** ~ 6 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.
- **October 24 —Washington Red Raspberry Commission** ~ in Lynden starting at 1pm. For more details, call (360) 354-8767 or [email](#) Henry Bierlink.

Crop Management Information

- [Specialty crop and minor-use pesticide research priorities set by IR-4](#) (9/17, MSU Extension)
- [New Brown Marmorated Stink Bug clearinghouse information website launched](#)
- [New IPM in Practice manual released by University of California](#) (9/17, Western Farm Press)

Spotted Wing Drosophila Update for 9-19-12

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) [Emergency label expansion for Delegate granted](#) (9/18, Farm Focus)
B.C. berry growers can use Delegate for SWD management from now until November 30.

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British Columbia, Fraser Valley *From the September 14 Blueberry IPM Newsletter done weekly by Carolyn Teasdale (ES Cropconsult) for the BC Blueberry Council):*

- **Blueberries:** "SWD trap catches remain high. All late season varieties remain at risk of infestation. Continue to manage SWD with insecticide sprays applied at 7-10 day intervals. There is no residue tolerance to Delegate or Malathion in some markets, so check with your packer before using. Rotate the use of chemicals to prevent the development of resistance. For mature fields that are difficult to drive through at harvest, custom spray applicators with over-the-row type sprayers can be hired. SWD damage can be minimized by shortening the harvest interval and removing cull fruit from the field."

Northern Washington, Skagit County (Tuesday, 9/17)

- **Blueberries:** SWD has been a real challenge particularly in organic where we've run out of effective materials to use once the 9 oz/acre max on Entrust is gone. Hate to use Pyganic as it is so hard on beneficial populations and not terribly effective on the flies. Most guys here have been on 7 day spray schedules all season once the SWD appeared. Our local pilot has been booked solid with aerial applications, we're glad to have a plane in the valley again, thanks to Tronsdal Air!

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SWD guidelines for management and control in berry production (9/20, Fruit Grower News) *This is written by Carlos Garcia-Salazar, Michigan State Extension, & is the present 'best practices' from Michigan's viewpoint.*

SWD in the News

- (Idaho) [Spotted Wing Drosophila found in Idaho](#) (9/13, The Grower)
- [Exotic fruit fly with wide host range found in Idaho](#) (9/20, Capital Press)
- (Wisconsin) ['Fruit fly' hits Coulee region; invasive species likes raspberries](#) (9/11, LaCrosse Tribune)

Regional Monitoring Reports

British Columbia

- [Click here](#) for the BC Blueberry IPM Newsletter for 9/14 with monitoring trap counts.

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.

- [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

- [Click here](#) for the 7/23/12 newsletter. The method is on pages 4 and 5.

Michigan State Extension

- [Sampling harvested berries to detect spotted wing Drosophila larvae infestations](#) (8/23)

Northwest 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](#)
- [Oregon State University-SWD Resource Site](#)
- [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

[British Columbia Berry Grower Magazine](#) (Fall, 2012) Articles include one on on-farm marketing of berries, Microwave technologies for drying raspberries, and “In-Box Consultant”—an article on Tom Peerbolt and the Small Fruit Update.

[Whatcom Ag Monthly September Newsletter](#) Articles include one by Tom Walters titled, “Is Bed Fumigation a viable alternative to broadcast fumigation for raspberry growers?”

Newsletters/ Berry Reports

- [BC Blueberry IPM Newsletter](#) (9/14) Weekly by Carolyn Teasdale, [ES Cropconsult](#). Sponsored by the BC Blueberry Council.
- [Michigan State Extension news for Blueberries](#) (9/20)
- [The Source](#) (9/17) 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: 9/9—Leaf yellowing and senescence in raspberry 2012** Reports on recent insect and disease research and observations in California.

- [Team Rubus](#) by Gina Fernandez, North Carolina State Small Fruit Specialist. **Recent entry: 9/18—Berry demand increases, article in The Produce News** *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

- [Growers focus on need for immigration reform, ag labor](#) (9/20, The Packer)
- [Oregon minimum wage climbs in 2013](#) (9/17, Oregonian) *Up to \$8.95 an hour.*

Technology

- [Top 5 tech trends in precision ag for 2012](#) (9/17, Precision Ag)
- [Climate variability and precision agriculture](#) (9/17, Precision Ag)
- [Praxair unveils new generation of flighted freezers \(for IQF processing\)](#) (9/5, Food Production Daily)
- [TeeJet makes new app available for selecting the right spray tip](#) (available for both Apple and Android mobile devices)
- [Automated trap monitors for pests, sends trap catch data](#) (9/13, The Grower)

Research

- [Stanford organic farming study sparks giant squabble](#) (9/19, Western Farm Press)

Farm/Food Politics

- [Farm bill discharge petition filed](#) (9/13, The Hill) *This is an attempt to force a vote on the new Farm Bill.*
- [Leaders call for farm bill passage](#) (9/12, The Packer)
- [US Farm bill is “stuck”, may pass in November](#) (9/11, Reuters)
- [Congress comes back to a face-off with angry farmers](#) (9/9, New York Times)

West

- [Oregon net farm income, labor costs jump in 2011](#) (9/19, Capital Press)
- [Oregon State University hit with personnel changes](#) (9/13, Capital Press)
- [British Columbia’s blueberry season finishing in style](#) (9/13, Fresh Fruit Portal)
- [Lack of Farm Bill would leave hole in WSU budget](#) (9/20, Capital Press)

North America

- [Fresh fruit imports, exports both rise](#) (9/12, The Packer) *Blueberry imports are up 9%.*
- (US retail performance) [Organics, fruit post gains](#) (9/11, The Packer) *The berries category is up 10%.*

International

Central America

- [Strawberry spike for Mexico in 2012](#) (9/20, Fresh Fruit Portal)

South America

- [Dynamic shift for Argentine blueberry exports in 2012-13](#) (9/19, Fresh Fruit Portal)
- [Uruguayan blueberry crop to fall by 18.5% in 2012](#) (9/20, Fresh Fruit Portal)
- [Digital pilot study to aid blueberry productivity in Chilean central valley](#) (9/12, Fresh Fruit Portal)

Europe

- (Netherlands) [Douven is going to offer blueberries year round](#) (9/20, Fresh Plaza)
- [Driscoll’s early \(to Europe\) with South American blueberries](#) (9/18, Fresh Plaza)

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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 fall webworm and remove from field.
- Prune out canker-killed branches and remove them from the field.
- Scout for weevil notching on leaves and for adult weevils.
- Prune out canker killed branches and remove from field.
- 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.

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 renovate 2-4 weeks after harvest unless pest pressure requires mowing and treating sooner.

Fresh market-still harvesting

- Scout for [Lygus Bugs](#).
- Scout for fruit damage symptoms like cat facing, [slug damage](#), anthracnose, etc.
- 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](#).)

[09-06-12](#)

[08-29-12](#)

[08-21-12](#)

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