

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.

October 25, 2012

Table of Contents

- [Regional Reports](#)
- [Research/Grant Information](#)
- [Event Calendar](#)
- [Industry News](#)
- [Crop Work/Pest Management](#)

[Interesting demographics driving berry boom, says Driscoll's CEO](#) (10/11, Fresh Fruit Portal)

[Chinese Strawberries in October: The True Cost of Food Imports](#) (10/19, Health Map)

[Mexican berry sector urged to avoid "peaks and saturations"](#) (10/25, Fresh Fruit Portal)

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

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.

Northern Washington, Whatcom County (Tuesday, 10/23)

- **Strawberries:** Recent Platinum (thiamethoxam) applications for root weevil got watered in real well. Subsoiling between showers now.
- **Blueberries:** Copper on the bush and Stinger/Saber herbicides on the grass middles for clover and dandelion as the leaves turn color. Lots of new plantings up here.
- **Raspberries:** Pruning and tying followed by copper applications.

Willamette Valley, Oregon (Tuesday, 10/23)

- **Blueberries:** At Salem, final pick of Aurora blueberries ended 10/22. This was intended to be a hand pick but the previous week's rain had left us with many split fruits. Also, the hand labor crew that arrived to pick the fruit had little blueberry experience and the pick was moving at a glacial pace. Call in the picking machine and wrap it up for 2012! Earlier I commented that SWD was a no show in some blocks and rampant in others.....but, as the season progressed, all untreated blueberries were annihilated by the pest. This was the second year we have

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](#)

relied on chemigation, through our cooling mist system, to treat SWD and we continue to be pleased with the control provided. All blueberry varieties on the farm enjoyed the excellent September/October heat and sunshine and cane caliper and bud set look great for 2012.



*Out with the old! 30+ year old Bluejay plants were grubbed out this fall to make way for new varieties.
(Photo by Jeff Flake, 10/3/12, Willamette Valley, Oregon)*

[Washington State Raspberry Production Statistics for 2012](#) (10/24, Washington Red Raspberry Commission)

Research/Grant Information

- [Oregon ag gets a boost from specialty crop block grants](#) (10/3, ODA)
- [Oregon and Washington agriculture departments unite for regional projects](#) (10/3, Oregonian)
- [Michigan State to lead grant project on specialty crop pollination](#) (10/16, Growing Produce)
- **Production research granting sources: Requests for Proposals deadlines**
If your organization/commission has RFP information that needs distribution please let me know. (tom@peerbolt.com)
 - **November 12** — [Washington State Commission on Pesticide Registration](#). [Click here](#) for the website that has a lot of background information.
 - **November 14** — [Washington Red Raspberry Commission Request for Proposals](#). The RFP link also has the 2013 research priority list.
 - **December 1** — [Oregon Blueberry Commission](#) This link also has the 2013 research priority list.
 - **December 10** — [Washington Blueberry Commission](#) This link also has the 2013 research priority list.
 - **Note:** The RFP's for the **Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission** and the **Oregon Strawberry Commission** will be available shortly. They operate on a different fiscal year cycle and normally have RFP deadlines occurring in early January.

Event Calendar

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

- **October 25-- ORBC meeting** ~ 5:30, Langdon Farms Golf Club Restaurant, Aurora. Call 541-758-4043 or [email Philip Gutt](#) for more information.

- **November 7—Oregon Strawberry Commission** ~ Noon at Landon Farms. [Click here](#) for meeting agenda and information. For more details call (541) 758- 4043 or [email Philip Gutt](#).
- **November 13—Oregon Blueberry Commission** ~ Noon at [Chemeteka Community College](#), Chemeketa Events at Winema, building 48, rooms 202 AandB. For more details call (503) 364-2944 or email [Lisa Ostlund](#).
- **November 29-30—Northwest Center for Small Fruits Research Annual Conference** ~ Kennewick, WA, [Click here](#) for the conference web page.
- **December 6—Washington Red Raspberry Commission** ~ in Lynden. For more details, call (360) 354-8767 or [email Henry Bierlink](#).
- **December 6-7—Washington Small Fruit Conference** ~ in Lynden. [Click here](#) for information.
- **December 10-12—2012 Far West Agribusiness Winter Conference** ~ Pasco, WA, [Click here](#) for the conference web page.
- **December 13—Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission Annual meeting** ~ 8:30-1:30, Wellspring Medical Center, Woodburn, OR. Call 541-758-4043 or [email Philip Gutt](#) for more information.
- **December 18—Blueberry IPM Systems and Best Management Practices** ~ 8:30-noon, Wellspring Medical Center, Woodburn, OR. [Click here](#) for the agenda/registration information.

2013

- **January 7 and 8—Annual Pacific Northwest Insect Management Conference** ~ Hilton Hotel, Downtown Portland. [Click here](#) for the details.
- **January 7 —Oregon Blueberry Commission meeting and research updates** ~ 8-3, Room 202 A andB, 4001 Winema Place, Chemeteka Community College, Salem, OR. Call (503) 364-2944 for more information or [email Bryan Ostlund](#).
 - **8-10:30 am - Research Project Updates**
Note: These are committee/commission research updates not the final reports. Final research reports will be given at the annual Blueberry Day at the Oregon Hort Society Seminars on 1/29 (see calendar item below). While these are open to the public and all are welcome, due to time constraints the Qanda time will be limited.
 - **10:30-noon- OBC Committee meetings.**
 - **Noon -3 Regular commission meeting.**
- **January 17—North Willamette Hort Society Berry Day** ~ Clackamas County Fairgrounds, Canby, OR. Details TBA.
- **January 24 – 26—Pacific Agriculture Show and Horticulture Growers' Short Course** ~ Tradex Exhibition Center (Abbotsford Airport), Abbotsford, BC. More Information coming soon.
- **January 28-30—NARBA/NASGA Joint Annual Conference** ~ A day-long tour on Monday, January 28, followed by two days of educational sessions and networking. The host hotel is the Double Tree Hilton, Portland (room rate \$79/night). [Click here](#) for more information.
- **January 29—Oregon Blueberry Commission's 2013 Blueberry Conference** ~ Double Tree Hilton, Portland. [Click here](#) for the details.
- **January 29-31—Annual Northwest Agricultural Show** ~ Portland Expo Center, Portland. [Click here](#) for details.
- **January 30—Oregon Hort Society's Caneberry Seminar** ~ 8-12, Portland Expo Center, Portland. Details will be coming soon. For information, contact Tom Peerbolt (tom@peerbolt.com, 503-289-7287)
- **February 27 —8th Annual ORBC Production Workshop for Commercial Raspberry and Blackberry Growers**~ 8:30am - 3:30pm at the Wellspring Conference Center, 1475 Mt. Hood Ave., Woodburn, OR. For more information, call the Peerbolt Crop Management office (503)289-7287 or [email Tom Peerbolt](#).
- **March 12 —Oregon Blueberry Commission** ~ Noon (budget preparation) at [Chemeteka Community College](#), Chemeketa Events at Winema, building 48, rooms 202 A and B. For more details call (503) 364-2944 or email [Lisa Ostlund](#).
- **April 23 —Oregon Blueberry Commission** ~ Noon (budget hearing) at [Chemeteka Community College](#), Chemeketa Events at Winema, building 48, rooms 202 A and B. For more details call (503) 364-2944 or email [Lisa Ostlund](#).

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

Crop Management Information

- [How to avoid a common blueberry planting error](#) (10/16, MSU Extension) *Excellent article! Take care of those roots—break up the root ball—don't hurry!*
- [First ever UC caneberry fresh market production manual now available](#) (10/23, Western Farm Press) [Click here](#) ordering information.
- [Brown Marmorated Stink Bug](#) *The first confirmed berry crop damage from this insect has been identified in western Oregon. It was late in the season and isolated but is an indication that the populations of BMSB appear to be increasing in our region and the potential for economic damage is also increasing.*
- [USDA Risk Management Agency announces expanded blueberry crop insurance availability for specified counties in Washington State](#) (10/16, RMA News Release) *The closing date is 11/20/12 for the 2013 season.*

Industry News/Resources

Newsletters/ Berry Reports

- [Whatcom Ag Monthly](#) *October issue from WSU Whatcom County Extension. Good article on soil sampling as well as an area event calendar and weather report.*
- [Oregon Blueberry Commission Update](#) *A quarterly publication from the OBC. Some very relevant grower/industry articles.*
- [Michigan State Extension Fruit Production News](#) (10/16)
- [The Source](#) (10/24) *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: 10/20—Upcoming California Small Scale Farm Conference Reports on recent insect and disease research and observations in California.**
- [Team Rubus](#) by Gina Fernandez, North Carolina State Small Fruit Specialist. **Recent entry: 10/19—Plant breeding at NCSU 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: 10/22—Kudzu bugs on caneberries?**

Immigration/ Agricultural Labor

- [American Farm Bureau Federation unveils their plan to keep workers on farms](#) (10/18, Capital Press)
- (Editorial) [Canada solves guestworker puzzle](#) (10/25, Capital Press)
- **Immigration/Labor News Resource:** [Rural Migration News](#) *This is produced by the Department of Ag Economics at UC Davis. I've found it to be a valuable source of information and insights on this critical issue. Lots of direct quotes from farmers and contractors on the state of their labor force.*

Marketing

- [Blueberry Baking Bliss sweepstakes promotes blueberry usage](#) (10/23, The Packer) *Cal Giant program.*
- [Well-Pict berries available through winter](#) (10/23, The Packer)
- [Healthier Frozen Foods](#) (October, Today's Dietician)

Food Safety

- [Study lays blame for outbreaks on food workers](#) (10/1, The Packer)

Research

- [U.K. study links bumblebee decline to pesticide exposure](#) (10/24, Fresh Fruit Portal)
- [USDA study results encourage wider strawberry harvest window](#) (10/24, Fresh Fruit Portal)
- [New washing treatment conserves strawberry properties](#) (10/12, Fresh Fruit Portal)

- [Private sector outspends public on ag research](#) (10/18, Capital Press)

Health Studies

- [Health benefits outweigh risks for produce](#) (10/15, The Packer)
- [Doctors' group: Organic has no health, safety advantage](#) (10/25, The Packer)

Farm/Food Politics

- [Presidential campaigns respond to ag related questions](#) (10/18, Capital Press)
- [GMO's causing food fight in California](#) (10/16, U.S. News and World Report)

West

- [OSU, growers use creative methods to help keep agents on the ground](#) (10/9, Capital Press)

North America

- [Vilsack appoints USHBC members](#) (10/19, Fruit Grower News)
- [Farm bill funding may benefit Delaware blueberries](#) (10/9, Fresh Plaza)

International

- [Chinese strawberries sickened thousands of German students](#) (10/9, Food Safety News)
- (Netherlands) [First blackberries from Mexico at Roveg](#) (10/23, Fresh Plaza)
- [Chilean blueberry exports to jump 21% in 2012-2013](#) (10/22, Fresh Fruit Portal)
- [Rough weather to impact Argentine blueberry exports](#) (10/18, Fresh Fruit Portal)
- [The change in the blueberry industry in Peru](#) (10/18, Fresh Plaza)
- [Mexico sets its berry sights on the Far East](#) (10/10, Fresh Fruit Portal)
- (Europe) [Manufacturers' 'bold gamble' on R and D](#) (10/24, Food Production)

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

Crop Work/Pest Management Activities

All crops

- Weed management.
- Apply lime, dolomite, gypsum and/or fall fertilizer.
- Scout for [vole damage](#).

Blueberries post harvest

- Can apply copper or Bordeaux for [bacterial canker](#).
- Prune out canker-killed branches and remove them from the field.
- Scout for weevils and weevil notching.

Caneberries post harvest

- Can cut out old floricanes now and tie up primocanes.
- Scout and mark problem weed areas that could be treated in the winter.
- Can apply Ridomil for [root rot](#) control.
- Can apply copper or Bordeaux after tying up canes.
- Can drench for [borer](#) control.

Strawberries post harvest

- Can apply fertilizer.
- Scout weak areas for [root weevil larvae](#), [Strawberry Crown Moth](#), root disease or soil problems.
- Can apply drench for [weevil larvae](#) management.

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

Archived Small Fruit Updates

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

[10-03-12](#)

[09-20-12](#)

[09-06-12](#)

This document is a guide and not intended as a recommendation or endorsement.

Consult with your supplier, field representative, or pest consultant.