

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 17, 2013

Week 38

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Blueberry research update: *Pseudomonas syringae* (Bacterial Blight), [Click here](#).

This was first posted 1/3/13. With an early fall this year, copper applications are in progress now to prevent this disease.



[The Weather Cafe](#) by Rufus La Lone

[Small Fruit Cold Storage report](#)

The harvest season is ending quickly across the region. Between the rains and SWD pressure any potential for late harvests is disappearing.

2013 SWD comments

With the fourth SWD season (almost) behind us, there are a few more lessons learned from experience and research:

- In the Willamette Valley we started out with a lot higher overwintering population and we saw some minor infestations earlier than ever before in first pick raspberries.
- These came when overall SWD populations were low and were relatively easy to clean up and get a full crop off with little economic impact.
- The summer was warmer than normal and very dry. We saw a major suppression in SWD populations.

Explanation/speculation: When high temps were in the mid 80's and higher, very little egg laying happened even though a lot of adult flies were being caught—High temperatures push the SWD population into the adult stage while reducing the actual number of larvae being produced for the next generation.

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](#)

- When the late summer temps dropped into the 60s and 70's and it turned wet, SWD infestations jumped very quickly and late picks were heavily impacted. **Explanation/speculation:** At that point adult populations were very high, wild blackberries provided a major breeding source and the weather conditions (70's & humid/wet) were ideal for egg laying in the berries.

Brian Cieslar Retires

Brian (briancieslar@yahoo.com) has worked within the berry industry in Whatcom County for over twenty years as a fieldman for some of the largest grower/packers as well as for Whatcom Farmers Coop. I know it's been over twenty years because that's how long I've been doing this and Brian was there to help me out right from the beginning.

He's been instrumental in setting berry research priorities and seeing that the work gets done. He's participated in the Washington Blueberry Commission (present research chair), the Washington Red Raspberry Commission (past research chair), the Washington Strawberry Commission and the Northwest Center For Small Fruits Research (numerous positions). He's also been a contributor to the Small Fruit Update from the beginning.

Thanks, Brian. It'll be strange not having your presence in the room. Great working with you. You've done a lot of good for the whole northwest berry growing community.

Tom Peerbolt, SFU Editor



Rain on rabbiteye blueberries
Willamette Valley
9/6/13

Regional crop information

What a difference a year makes. Below each of the reports below I've included the ones from last year on this date.

British Columbia, Fraser Valley (Monday, 9/16)

- **Blueberries.** Pretty well a wrap on the Elliots. The last picks were on the weekend. Now with a big change in weather to wet and cooler, it's over. It has been a struggle with this late season crop - weather really was a strong factor with heat producing quickly overripe berries and softness and then early September rains that caused splits. So if you couldn't keep up with the picking you were in trouble. Oh yeah, throw in incredible late season SWD numbers and it's a perfect storm. Now it's on to some fall work - weeding, phosphites, fall fertilizer, and fungicides.

2012 Comparison: 9/17/12

- Starting into the third pick on Elliots soon. Size on Elliots 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.

Whatcom County, Northern Washington (Friday, 9/13)

- **All berries:** Blueberries all but done here, late varieties like Elliott have high SWD pressure. Post harvest cleanup nearly done. Raspberry pruning has begun, closely followed by copper sprays. Strawberry fields with weevils need to be sprayed with Platinum in the rain. Some subsoiling has begun.

2012 Comparison: 9/17/12

- In the Skagit Valley we are still running about two weeks behind “normal”. Fortunately the warm sunny weather continues to hold. Organic Elliots still trailing the conventional in maturity and we are coming to the end of the Liberty with one pick to go.

Willamette Valley, Oregon and SW Washington (Tuesday, 9/17)

- **Blueberries:** Harvest is quickly finishing. Still some Elliots and Auroras coming in but with the weather change and building SWD pressure everywhere there won't be much more. Post harvest activities are in progress with some copper applications going on.

2012 Comparison: 9/17/12

- 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.

Industry news/resources

Newsletters/ Berry reports

- [Whatcom Ag Monthly](#) (9/15) *Articles on fall weed control, SWD egg detection, MRL's and fumigation resources as well as a weather data update.*
- [BC Blueberry IPM Newsletter](#) (9/13) *Weekly by Carolyn Teasdale, [ES Cropconsult](#). Sponsored by the BC Blueberry Council.*
- [Michigan State Extension Blueberry News](#) (9/10)
- [The Source](#) (9/16) *Marketing report from The Produce News.*
- [National Berry Report](#) *Daily fresh market berry reports. Hosted by the California Strawberry Commission, this report is generated from data from the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service and is updated daily.*

Magazine compilations

- The Packer: [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](#) by Mark Bolda, UC Davis Berry Extension Agent. **Recent entry: 9/11—Use of glyphosate (Roundup) to control field bindweed in blackberries** *Reports on recent insect and disease research and observations in California.*
- [Team Rubus](#) by Gina Fernandez, North Carolina State Small Fruit Specialist. **Recent entry: 9/16—Blackberry and raspberry seasonal checklist Fall 2013** *Reports on issues in blackberries and raspberries from the Southeast.*

Pollination

- [Honey bees to rent? Demand will only grow](#) (9/16, Western Farm Press) *This is referencing the demand expected in the California almond industry. If their supply grows, our supply grows...*

Technology

- [Precision Ag 2013: Top 5 trends to watch](#) (9/3, PrecisionAg)
- [Quadcoptors take flight](#) (9/3, PrecisionAg)
- [Remote controlled aircraft spray, perform other tasks](#) (9/13, Fruit Grower news)
- [Australian researchers branch out with robot farming](#) (FreshFruitPortal)

Politics & Ag

- [The farm bill is back](#) (9/15, Politico)
- [With Congress back, ag looks to uncertain farm bill end game](#) (9/13, Ag Professional)
- [Funding for ag research plays a vital role](#) (9/10, Ag Professional)

- [Tom Vilsack: Strongly opposed to farm bill extension](#) (9/10, Politico)
- [Opinion: Immigration reform hits a GOP hurdle](#) (9/8, Washington Post)
- [Feinstein to Immigration and Customs Enforcement \(ICE\): Stop targeting farm workers](#) (9/4, The Hill)

Regulatory Agencies

- [Heavy-handed EPA](#) (9/3, Alaska Dispatch) *This has nothing to do with berries other than being an extreme example of how some of our agencies seem to be approaching regulatory enforcement. This has “a paramilitary force checking for dirty water”.*

Business

- [Global frozen food market is expected to reach \\$294 billion by 2019](#) (9/10, Wall Street Journal)
- [The future of the food industry...](#) (Agweb.com)
- [Bayer CropScience announces major sales, investment goals](#) (9/9, FreshFruitPortal)

Labor

- Michigan: [Big farm yield, but a dwindling workforce](#) (9/15, The Herald-Palladium; Benton Harbor)

Food Safety

- [Small farmers ask how food-safety rules affect them](#) (9/11, AgAlert)
- [Ireland Advisory: Boil all imported frozen berries to avoid hepatitis A](#) (9/9, The Journal)

Health

- [‘Compelling data’ shows blueberry flavonoids boost heart health](#) (9/11, NUTRAingredients.com)
- [Consumption of fruit linked with lower diabetes risk](#) (9/6, Growing Produce)

North America

- Florida: [Pesticide used by strawberry growers in Tampa causing a stink](#) (9/11, Fresh Plaza)
- Florida: [Florida strawberry breeding program puts priority on flavor](#) (9/12, Growing Produce)

International

- [Strawberry congress takes off in Antwerp](#) (9/10, Fresh Plaza)
- [Freeze tightens Argentina blueberry volumes](#) (9/13, The Packer)
- Argentina: [As berries fill U.S. niche, domestic use remains low](#) (9/13, The Packer)
- Scotland: [Raspberries in decline as blueberry demand soars](#) (9/11, Fresh Plaza)
- [Report highlights export potential for frozen Chilean strawberries, blackberries](#) (9/11, FreshFruitPortal)
- Spain: [Asturian blueberries focusing on the export market](#) (Fresh Fruit Portal, 8/28)

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Event Calendar

- **New Posting: September 17 — Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission** ~ 6 pm at [Langdon Farms Golf Club](#). [Click here](#) for the agenda. Call 541-758-4043 or [email](#) Phillip Gutt for more information.
- **September 24 — Oregon Blueberry Commission** ~ 12 pm, at Chemeketa Events at Winema, Building 48, Room 210.
- **September 24 — Oregon Strawberry Commission** ~ 6 pm [Langdon Farms Golf Club](#). Call 541-758-4043 or [email](#) Phillip Gutt for more information.
- **October 2-4 — US Highbush Blueberry Council, Fall Meeting** ~ in Wilmington, NC. [Click here](#) for agenda and online reservation links
- **October 23 — Washington Red Raspberry Commission** ~ in Lynden, WA. Call 360-354-8767 or [email](#) [Henry Bierlink](#) for more information.

Crop work/Pest management activities **Week 38**

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

Harvest ongoing

- Scout for leaf symptoms—poor growth, nutrient deficiencies, water stress, herbicide damage, etc & determine if actions are needed.
- 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

Scout for cane collapse symptoms & determine cause ([Phytophthora Root Rot](#), Verticillium, crown borers, overwatering, etc.)

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](#)).
- 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](#) , [Yellow mites](#) and treat as needed.
- Scout for [aphids](#) and treat as needed.
- Scout for [leafroller larvae](#).

Blackberries

Mid season processed harvest finished/Late ripening variety 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](#))
- Scout for and treat as needed [Blackberry Rust](#) in Evergreen blackberries.
- Scout for [Twospotted Spider Mites](#) and treat as needed in susceptible cultivars.
- Scout for [Cane and Leaf Rust](#).
- Scout for [aphids](#) and treat as needed.
- Scout for cane collapse symptoms & determine cause ([Phytophthora Root Rot](#), Verticillium, crown borers, overwatering, etc.)

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.
- Apply main fertilizer application as needed.

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](#)).

Archived Small Fruit Updates

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

[36-SFU09-04-13](#) [35-SFU08-27-13](#) [34-SFU08-20-13](#)

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

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