

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 1, 2013

Week 40

Table of Contents

- [Regional crop information](#)
- [Grower resources](#)
- [Industry news/resources](#)
- [Event calendar](#)

[Stink bugs threaten Pacific Northwest crops](#)

(9/24, KGW.com)

This is a local news station story on the first recorded outbreak of Brown Marmorated Stink Bug in the Northwest. It's on a farm in SW Washington. I suspect we might have more out there but people just don't know what they're seeing yet.

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

[Small Fruit Cold Storage report](#)

I'm finishing up this Update from Wilmington, North Carolina where I just arrived for the US Highbush Blueberry Council meetings. So this issue is a bit abbreviated. Not a bad time to change coasts in light of our September deluge. I guess we can say that the Northwest berry harvest season is now officially over.

More on bacterial blight in blueberries:

Dr. Jay Pscheidt, OSU's fruit pathologist, has an article in Growing Produce about Pseudomonas management in blueberries:

- ["Timely Blueberry Disease Control"](#). He talks extensively about how to use copper most efficiently.
- *Dr Pscheidt also corrects something in my own ["Blueberry research update: Pseudomonas syringae"](#) posted in the last SFU about there not being any research basis for fall applications. There is some work that's been done which he points out.*

From sunny, 80 degree North Carolina,

Tom Peerbolt, SFU Editor

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](#)

Regional crop information

Below each of the current reports below I've included the ones from this week last year.

British Columbia, Fraser Valley (Friday, 9/27)

- **Blueberries:** The very last Elliot's are picking in only a few fields. This weekend should absolutely end everything with the coming deluge. Focus now is on new plantings of blues and post harvest remedial work and protective spraying.

2012 Comparison: 10/1/12

- Elliotts continue to pick on a reduced scale now but some growers could get a fourth where size is not an issue. Continued good weather will be needed and seems to be forthcoming, amazingly. Starting to plant new blueberry fields up here in the last week. More to come throughout the month. But dry soil conditions are holding up pre-plant fumigation and planting a bit.

Whatcom County, Northern Washington (Thursday, 9/26)

- **All berries:** From [Brian Cieslar](#), longtime contributor who's retiring: Last entry from me on the west side. 41 degrees Thursday (9/26) morning and frost reports from the peat bogs. Raspberry pruning, tying, and copper sprays going full tilt. Sub soiling strawberries. Calpril, gypsum and lime applications going on the blueberries and raspberries. Again, it has been a pleasure working with all of you for up to 34 years. My co-workers say I gave 105% every week, spread out at 15% per day.
- **All berries:** Like Brian said for Whatcom County, copper and lime going on fields. Pre emergent herbicides already on or going on soon. Blueberries are still being planted. Fields taken out are being fumigated. I'd like to thank Brian for everything he has done for Whatcom County and for me, personally. Fortunately I have been able to enjoy the 15% the last few years and help him occupy the other 85%. Thanks for everything, Shorty!
 - **Blueberry bud mite question:** *I am currently trying to figure out a declining Bluecrop field that is 25+ years. I sent in bud samples to OSU to look for bud mites. Has anyone had any experience with these? I know they are an issue in Michigan, but never heard of any cases here. (email: [Leighton Overson](#), Phone: 360 325-1168, WFC Agronomist)*

2012 Comparison: 10/1/12

- Peacefully quiet up here, amazingly still waiting for some rain. Pruning raspberries, looks like a lot of scarring/disease on the new canes. Blues done, or should be. Strawberries in the subsoil mode.

Skagit County, Northern Washington (Thursday, 9/26)

- **All berries:** Down to Elliott blueberries and Chester blackberries. We've got SWD in both but the real issue has been labor, which I have been reluctant to mention. Some small organic growers claim to have kept SWD at bay using spinosad (Entrust) & Oxidate in 5 day rotation while some larger growers are seeing larvae in fruit despite tight spraying with conventional insecticides. Maybe it depends on fruit inspection protocols but there are lots of other factors. It definitely was warm enough here to have large numbers of flies but not hot enough to shut down egg laying activity. Late season fruit is running out of short (one day) phi materials for applications and we can't stay in a regular rotation with 3 day phi products.

2012 Comparison: 10/1/12

- Just getting into the 3rd round on Elliotts, finishing up on the Liberty that remain. Never seen it so dry this time of year, even our water truck was blowing a dust cloud trying to wet down the headlands where we are picking. Got cover crops in on fallow organic blocks around Sept 16th but germination is slow with no moisture.

Willamette Valley, Oregon and SW Washington (Thursday, 9/26)

- **Blueberries:** We finished harvest on the September 15th. SWD populations were getting large by the end of the season but we made it through mostly unscathed. Post-harvest we have been applying gypsum in areas we want to improve drainage and suppress Phytophthora. We have also been applying compost and sawdust to some fields that need it. We did a post-harvest boron application to boost our tissue levels and hopefully help bud set. It's a very early fall this year with the rain and cool weather coming on much sooner.

- **One note of interest:** We have noticed a lot of late fruit in our draper this year. I took the photo on the side today (9/26). There is always a few of these scattered around this time of the year but this year seems to have much more.

2012 Comparison: 10/3/12

- **Blueberries:** There are still some Aurora and rabbiteye blueberries being picked, but things are wrapping up. Boy are things dry! Keep up on watering where needed.



Late fruit in Draper
(9/26, Willamette Valley)
Photo by T.J. Hafner

Grower resources

- [Don't let blueberry irrigation problems bury you](#) (9/27, Growing Produce)
- [Timely blueberry disease control](#) (9/20, Growing Produce)

Industry news/resources

Newsletters/ Berry reports

- [BC Blueberry IPM Newsletter](#) (9/22) Weekly by Carolyn Teasdale, [ES Cropconsult](#). Sponsored by the BC Blueberry Council.
- [The Source](#) (9/30) 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: 9/25— Farm Call: Nitrogen deficiency in strawberry** 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.

Ag Research

- [Vilsack extends specialty crop research funding](#) (9/25, Fresh Fruit Portal)
- [WSU lands grant for robotic tree fruit harvesting](#) (9/24, Growing Produce)

Technology

- [Strawberry harvesting aid helps farmworker efficiency](#) (9/17, The Packer)
- [UV light and ultrasound show promise to decontaminate produce](#) (9/25, Food Quality News)
- [Ethylene-absorbing pads slated as tools to improve fruit shelf life](#) (9/19, Fresh Fruit Portal)

Politics & Ag

- [Time short, house says it seeks a farm bill](#) (9/24, New York Times)
- [D.C. Watch: Can a new farm bill get through Congress?](#) (9/23, Ag Professional)
- [Immigration groups push President Obama for action](#) (9/19, Politico)

Business

- [Driscoll's names new president, other executives](#) (9/17, The Packer)
- [Curry & Co. opens LA office, plans new distribution center](#) (9/16, The Packer)
- [Inventure to move into veg with Fresh Frozen buy](#) (9/24, just-food)

Health

- [Studies show antioxidant levels in frozen foods can be higher than in fresh](#) (9/25, Foodbev.com)
- [Red grapes, blueberries may enhance immune function](#) (9/17, OSU News Release)

North America

- [Canadian organic sector sets roots in consumer markets](#) (9/27, Fresh Fruit Portal)

International

- Chile: [Frosts may cut some crops by 25% in two key regions](#) (9/25, Fresh Fruit Portal)

- [Lower estimate for Argentine blueberries](#) (9/20, Fresh Fruit Portal)
- [Argentine blueberry shipments to start next week](#) (9/19, Fresh Fruit Portal)
- [Pandol Bros. enters Chilean blueberry deal](#) (9/26, The Packer)

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

Event Calendar

- **October 21 — Washington Blueberry Commission Quarterly Meeting.** Details coming soon. For more information contact Jonathon Peterson [by email](#) or call 509-266-4300.
- **October 23 — Washington Red Raspberry Commission** ~ 1pm at the WRRRC office: 1796 Front Street, Lyden, WA. Call 360-354-8767 or [email Henry Bierlink](#) for more information.
- **October 29 — Oregon Strawberry Commission** ~ 12 pm, at [Langdon Farms Golf Club](#). Call 541-758-4043 or [email](#) Phillip Gutt for more information.
- **October 31 — Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission** ~ 11 am at [Langdon Farms Golf Club](#). Committee meetings start at 9:30 am. Call 541-758-4043 or [email](#) Phillip Gutt for more information.
- **November 4-5 — National Processed Raspberry Council meeting** ~ SeaTac Marriott Hotel, Seattle. Email [Tom Krugman](#) or call him at 360-918-8504 for more information.
- **November 5 — Oregon Blueberry Commission** ~ 12 pm, at Chemeketa Events at Winema, Building 48, Room 210. For more information contact Bryan Ostlund [by email](#) or call 503-364-2944.
- **December 4 — Washington Red Raspberry Commission meeting** ~ in Lynden, WA. Call 360-354-8767 or [email Henry Bierlink](#) for more information.
- **December 5-6 — Third Annual Lynden Ag Show and Washington Small Fruit Conference** ~ in Lynden, WA. [Go here for more information](#).
- **December 9-11—2013 Far West Agribusiness Winter Conference** ~ Red Lion Hotel, 2525 N. 20th Ave, Pasco, WA. [Click here](#) for the conference web page.
- **December 10-12 — Great Lakes Expo** ~ Grand Rapids, Michigan. [Click here](#) for details.
- **December 13 — OSU Blueberry Pruning Workshop** ~ At [NWREC](#), in Aurora, OR. Contact Wei Yang [by email](#) for more information.
- **December 18 — ORBC Annual Growers Meeting** ~ The 2012-13 FY ORBC Reports will be presented at Wellsprings Medical Center in Woodburn, OR. Times and more information coming soon.
- **January 6, 2014 — Oregon Blueberry Commission** ~ Chemeketa Events at Winema, Building 48, Room 210. 8:00-10:30 am: Research updates; 10:30 am-12:00 pm: Committee Meetings; 12:00 pm Commission Meeting. For more information contact Bryan Ostlund [by email](#) or call 503-364-2944.
- **January 16 — North Willamette Horticulture Society Berry Day** ~ Clackamas County Event Center, 694 NE 4th Ave, Canby, OR 97013. For the event webpage, registration, and more information, [click here](#).
- **January 27 — 2014 Blueberry Conference** ~ organized by the Oregon Blueberry Commission and Oregon State University. At the Doubletree Hotel, 1000 NE Multnomah St, Portland, OR, 9am-8pm. For more information contact Bryan Ostlund [by email](#) or call 503-364-2944.
- **January 28 - 30 — Northwest Ag Show** ~ at the Portland Expo Center. 2060 N. Marine Drive, Portland, OR 97217. [Click here](#), for more information.

- **January 29 — Oregon Hort Society's Caneberry Seminar** ~ at the Portland Expo Center. 2060 N. Marine Drive, Portland, OR 97217. Details will be coming soon. For information, contact Tom Peerbolt (tom@peerbolt.com, 503-289-7287).
- **January 29 — Oregon Strawberry Commission Workshop "The potential market for fresh strawberries,"** 1-5pm, at the Portland Expo Center, 2060 N. Marine Drive, Portland, OR 97217. Admission is free. All experienced, new, and transition strawberry growers encouraged to attend. [Email Lora Liegel](mailto:Lora.Liegel@peerbolt.com) at Peerbolt Crop Management with questions or call the office at 503-289-7287.
- **January 30 - February 1, 2014 —Pacific Agriculture Show and Horticulture Growers Short Course** ~ at the Tradex Exhibition Centre (Abbotsford Airport) in Abbotsford, BC. [Click here](#) for more information.
- **February 26 — 9th Annual ORBC Production Workshop for Commercial Raspberry and Blackberry Growers** ~ at the Wellspring Conference Center, 1475 Mt. Hood Ave., Woodburn, OR. Details coming soon. For more information, call the Peerbolt Crop Management office (503)289-7287 or [email Tom Peerbolt](mailto:tom@peerbolt.com).

Archived Small Fruit Updates

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

[38-SFU09-17-13](#) [36-SFU09-04-13](#) [35-SFU08-27-13](#)

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

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

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