

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.

December 10, 2013

Week 50

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[Judge: Strong case 'hot goods' settlements made under duress](#) (12/4, Capital Press)

[New Scarecrows for Vineyards: Car Dealers' Inflatable 'Dancing' Tube Man](#) (11/28, Wall Street Journal)

[Outlook: Immigration reform & California agriculture](#) (Univ. of Cal, Davis) Picked up this link from [Mark Bolda's blog](#).

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

Random highlights from the Western Washington Small Fruits Conference in Lynden last week:

- The Washington blueberry crop for 2013 will work out to very close to the 2012 crop total of 80 million pounds.
- A field survey funded by the WRRC and the WBC shows widespread botrytis resistance to many of our present fungicides. Resistance patterns varied quite a bit by field and region but the overall pattern is of great concern.
- WSU is releasing a new processing type raspberry variety to be named 'Cascade Harvest'. It promises great fruit quality, root rot resistance & virus resistance. More on this and other breeding program developments in our planned end-of-the-year Small Fruit Variety Development Update version of the SFU.
- WSU Whatcom County Extension has put together an online tool for mapping fumigation buffers. [Click here](#) to check it out.

Regards,

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](#)

Preseason Workshops

New meeting posting: January 29 — Oregon Strawberry Commission sponsored workshop "The potential market for fresh strawberries" ~ 1-5 pm, Northwest Agricultural Show, Portland Expo Center, Portland. Attendance is free but please RSVP since space is limited. [Click here](#) for the draft agenda. Contact Peerbolt Crop Management by [email](#) or phone 503-289-7287 to RSVP.

New meeting posting: January 29 — Oregon Horticultural Society Caneberry Day ~ 8-11:40 am, Northwest Agricultural Show, Portland Expo Center, Portland. Admittance to this OHS sponsored workshop and NW Ag Show is included in current OHS membership dues. Membership dues payable on site or beforehand at the OHS website ([click here](#)). [Click here](#) for the draft agenda. Call Peerbolt Crop Management with questions 503-289-7287 or [email](#).

Cold weather comments

This last week has brought an arctic blast of cold air into the Northwest.

Oregon, Willamette Valley (Monday, 12/9)

From Dr. Bernadine Strik, OSU Small Fruit Horticulturist:

- It has been cold, needless to say. Weather data indicate it got down to 2F (-16C) at the Hyslop Farm near Corvallis and 9.7F (-12C) at the NWREC in Aurora on Sunday night (Dec. 8). That's cold. It has stayed cold and there is relatively little wind in most sites, I believe, so that has helped.

There is so much variability from site to site. However, I would expect to see some cold damage to our most sensitive caneberries (e.g. Marion) at temperatures below 8 to 10 F (-13 to -12C) this time of year. Fields managed for alternate year (AY) cropping will look better next spring than those managed for cropping every year (EY), I expect.

Remember, that the canes need to warm up and it takes a bit of time before any damage can be adequately assessed. You can cut canes and bring them inside (insert ends into water). Considering we may have more cold weather in our future as the winter is "young", you might want to hold off doing this until late winter.

British Columbia, Fraser Valley (Monday, 12/9)

- In BC, all in Celsius of course, we went down in the Fraser Valley to minus 11C (12F). Add wind-chill to it and we reached minus 22C (-8F). The wind was miserable and I believe we now have serious blackberry damage, at least to the standing primocanes. Young and weak raspberry fields likely took some damage from dehydrating winds, freeze dried is likely more accurate.

The good point is that everything was nicely dormant before this started. We did however not get our usual snow cover prior to the arctic outbreak, so even strawberries may have taken damage on the East side of the hills. We will assess once it warms up, but in the matted row system we usually advise to leave the West side of the row intact completely whereas the East part gets tilled when spring tilling rows to size. I am with Bernadine, this is just the start of winter, technically fall still, best to wait till end of February to assess cumulative damage.

Today nice and snowy, about an inch of snow thus far, more tomorrow and Wednesday. Then just plain miserably cold and rainy, i.e. our normal weather for this time. I'm off to Florida....

Oregon, Central Willamette Valley (Monday, 12/9)

- Certainly was cold here, 5 degrees appears to be the lowest, several nights down in the 10-15 (-12 to -9C) range. Will be interesting to see what happens to the caneberries in our research plot. We tied them up later than normal, (October). I can see the Legacy blueberry variety could have a problem with it being half southern highbush. Don't think we've had it this cold since all the Legacy acres have gone in.

Oregon, Central Willamette Valley (Tuesday, 12/10)

- The most recent comparison to the December lows we are experiencing now was 2009. In 2010 the Marion crop was 18 million pounds. The prior year, 2009, it was 25 million pounds and the following year, 2011, it was 26 million pounds. The Marion crop does tend to fluctuate without cold temps so I am not sure how much of the reduction in 2010 was due to temperature and how much was due to other factors.

All temps are at the Salem Airport. Blue numbers are the low cold temperature comparisons in 2009 and 2013. Orange numbers in 2013 are the forecasted temps.

Days of the Month in December

YR	MO		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
2009	Dec	Max	54	50	47	45	43	37	31	32	31	36	34	35	41	44
2009	Dec	Min	41	34	31	25	25	28	22	20	10	10	11	30	28	39

YR	MO		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
2013	Dec	Max	56	53	46	39	33	30	30	29	31	37	41	43	45	46
2013	Dec	Min	50	33	27	21	17	24	14	8	11	26	28	40	34	38

A simple method for assessing cold damage

As advised above, it'd probably be just as well to wait for later to assess cold damage since we've got a long way to go for this cold season but for those of you so inclined, here's a method.

- Put cane/branch sections in a Ziploc bag and store at room temperature for 4-5 days.
- Then cut and check for injury symptoms.
- Usually after 4-5 days the dead tissue, whether buds or vascular tissue, will have oxidized & turned brown.

Assessing cold damage in caneberries

- [Click here](#) for photos and suggested assessment techniques from Michele Warmund, Horticulture professor at the University of Missouri and Dr. Bernadine Strik, Horticulture professor and berry extension specialist at Oregon State University.

Grower Resources

- [Biologically Based Organic Management Strategies for Spotted Wing Drosophila](#) (OSU—eXtension Webinar) *Sign up now for the February 11th online webinar.*
- [Purdue, Ohio State partner to help farmers control marestail](#) (12/4, Ag Professional)
- [SWD targeted by UC Davis genome research](#) (12/8, Daily Democrat News)

Meeting Scheduled for Willamette Valley Russian Caneberry Grower Community

“We would really like as many Russian and bilingual growers (and farm managers or partners in the business) to attend.”

- **December 20 — OSU Fertilizer Nutrient Management Programs in Caneberries with Russian translation** ~ 1-3 PM at the North Willamette Research & Extension Center, Aurora. A workshop for the Russian community presentations will be translated as well as handouts in both English and Russian.
- Workshop is free but for indicating how many will participate, registration is requested. Call Jan Egli at 503-678-1264 x 110 by December 17 to register.
- [Click here](#) for flyer with more information (in English & Russian)

Industry news/resources

Newsletters/ Berry reports

- [British Columbia Berry Grower Magazine](#) (Winter issue) *Produced quarterly & includes excellent berry crop information*
- [Whatcom Ag Monthly](#) *Produced by WSU Whatcom County Extension. Includes excellent berry crop information.*
- [The Source](#) (12/9) *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/website 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](#).
- **Fresh Fruit Portal:** [blueberries](#), [blackberries](#), [raspberries](#), [strawberries](#).
Recent stories for the various berries from Fresh Fruit Portal.

Berry research blogs

- [Strawberries and Caneberries](#) by Mark Bolda, UC Davis Berry Extension Agent. **Recent entry: 12/6—Powerpoint presentations from Fumigation Alternative Symposium now available** *Reports on recent insect and disease research and observations in California.*
- [Team Rubus](#) by Gina Fernandez, North Carolina State Small Fruit Specialist. **Recent entry: 12/2—North American Raspberry & Blackberry Association's Request for Research Proposals—here's the information (they're due on 12/20)** *Reports on issues in blackberries and raspberries from the Southeast.*

Pesticides

- [Chemical agriculture on the attack, again](#) (12/2, Civil Eats) *Opinion piece...*

Pollinators

- [Why disappearing bees mean you'll pay more for almonds](#) (11/19, Modern Farmer)

Technology

- [Perspective: Could Amazon's Folly Kill UAVs for Ag?](#) (12/5, Precision Ag) *Another sign of how fast technology is moving. Who could have seen a story like this coming?*

Research/Breeding

- [Scientists complete genetic fingerprint of spotted wing drosophila](#) (12/4, The Packer)

Politics & Ag

- [Boehner says expiring US farm bill should get 1-month extension](#) (12/6, Ag Professional)
- [Lead negotiator sees January finish for overdue farm bill](#) (12/5, Ag Professional)
- Farm bill: [Reforming food stamps yet coddling millionaires?](#) (12/5, Politico) *An opinion piece by Iowa Senator Chuck Grassly.*
- [Fall 2013 White House regulatory plan includes many food safety rules](#) (12/5, Food Safety News)
- [GMO food labeling crusade fails again](#) (12/6, Western Farm Press)

Business

- [Sales growth 6.2% for crop protection distributors during 2013](#) (12/5, Ag Professional)
- [What ag consultants need to consider for the future](#) (12/4, Ag Professional) *Short, informative video.*

West

- Oregon: [Program reducing pesticide detection in Oregon watersheds](#) (12/5, Capital Press)
- Oregon: [Court spells out law on farm activities](#) (12/5, Capital Press)
- California: [Citrus, strawberries affected by two nights of freezing temperatures in California](#) (12/6, The Produce News)
- California: [Minimum wage hike will hurt California growers](#) (Fruit Grower News)
- Arizona: [Arizona project explores hydroponic strawberry production](#) (12/6, The Grower)

North America

- Florida: [Florida ramping up seasonal strawberry shipments](#) (12/5, The Packer)
- Eastern Canada: [A Chinese delegation visits Canadian blueberry farms](#) (The Grower.org)

Information Sources

- International markets: [Startup offers standardized data for ag industry](#) (12/2, FFP) [Click here](#) to go to *Agronometrics, the site being refer to in this article.*

International

(FFP=Fresh Fruit Portal)

- Peru: [Blueberry plantations to replace asparagus crops](#) (11/29, Fresh Plaza)
- Mexico: [International blueberry conference set for Mexico on March10-11, 2014](#) (12/3, FFP)
- South American imports: [Port Everglades \(Florida\) welcomes blueberries under pilot program](#) (12/3, The Pacer)
- Peru: [Camposol reveals \\$100 million blueberry plan](#) (12/4, FFP)
- South Korea: [Australia signs Free Trade Agreement with South Korea to boost farm exports](#) (12/5, Ag Professional)

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Event calendar

- **December 9 — Precision Farming Forum—Unmanned Aerial Systems** ~ 8:30-5:30, Yamhill Fairgrounds, McMinnville, Or [Click here](#) for information & online tickets. Event is free.
- **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. Early registration deadline is November 20th. [Click here](#) for details.
- **December 13 — OSU Blueberry Pruning Workshop** ~ 9 am-12 pm English, 1-4 pm Spanish. At [NWREC](#), Aurora, OR. [Click here](#) for agenda. Contact Wei Yang [by email](#) for more information.
- **December 17 — Washington Strawberry Commission Meeting.** 9am-1pm in the Puyallup Conference Room at the WSU Puyallup Research Center. Contact Walter Swenson with questions.
- **December 18 — ORBC Annual Growers Meeting** ~ The 2012-13 FY ORBC Reports will be presented at Wellsprings Medical Center in Woodburn, OR. Meeting is from 9am-2pm. Call 541-758-4043 or [email](#) Phillip Gutt for more information. [Click here](#) for the agenda.
- **December 20 — OSU Fertilizer Nutrient Management Programs in Caneberries with Russian translation** ~ 1-3 PM at the North Willamette Research & Extension Center, Aurora. A workshop for the Russian community presentations will be translated as well as handouts in both English and Russian. *“We would really like as many Russian and bilingual growers (and farm managers or partners in the business) to attend.”* Workshop is free but for indicating how many will participate, registration is requested. Call Jan Egli at 503-678-1264 x 110 by December 17 to register. [Click here](#) for flyer with more information (in English & Russian)
- **January 6, 2014 — Oregon Blueberry Commission** ~ Chemeketa Events at Winema, Building 48, Room 210. 8:00-11:00 am: Research updates; 11:00 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 6 & 7 — 73rd Annual Pacific Northwest Insect Management Conference.** 10am to 4:30pm January 6th, and 8:30am to 4:30pm January 7th. At the Hilton Hotel, 921 SW 6th Ave, Portland, OR 97204. [Contact Joe DeFrancesco](#) for more information or [click here](#). Proceedings from the following years can be viewed [here](#).
- **January 8— Oregon Strawberry Commission** ~ 5 pm, at [Langdon Farms Golf Club](#). Promotions Committee meeting will begin at 4 pm (prior to regular commission meeting). Call 541-758-4043 or [email](#) Phillip Gutt for more information.
- **January 14 — Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission** ~ Regular meeting begins at 11 am at [Langdon Farms Golf Club](#). Committee meetings start beforehand: 9:00 Promotions, 9:30 Legislative/Labor/Education, 9:50 Communications and Product Safety, 10:10 Research, 10:30 Budget. Call 541-758-4043 or [email](#) Phillip Gutt for more information.
- **January 16—North Willamette Horticulture Society Berry Day** ~ Clackamas County Event Center, 694 NE 4th Ave, Canby, OR 97013. For the event webpage and registration, [click here](#). For the agenda schedule, [click here](#).
- **January 22 — Washington Red Raspberry Commission** ~ Board meeting in Lynden, WA. [Contact Henry Bierlink](#) for more information.

- **January 27 — 2014 Blueberry Conference** ~ organized by the Oregon Blueberry Commission and Oregon State University. At the Embassy Suites (near airport), 7900 NE 82nd Ave, 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](#) 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 the main website. You can view the program on-line ([click here](#)) and register ahead of the crowd ([click here](#)).
- **February 11 — OSU eXtension Webinar on SWD** ~ Biologically based organic management strategies for Spotted Wing Drosophila. Sign up now for the webinar. [Click here](#) for the registration page and 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](#).
- **March 10-11 — International Blueberry Organization Annual Conference.** The International Blueberry Organization (IBO) will hold its fourth annual event in Guadalajara, Mexico. [Click here](#) for a report on the event by Fresh Fruit Portal, or [click here](#) for a link to the IBO's website.
- **March 18 — Oregon Blueberry Commission** ~ 12 pm (Budget Preparation), at Chemeketa Events at Winema, Building 48, Room 210. Contact Bryan Ostlund for more information at 503-364-2944 or bryan@ostlund.com.
- **April 9 — Washington Red Raspberry Commission** ~ Board meeting in Puyallup. [Contact Henry Bierlink](#) for more information.
- **April 29 — Oregon Blueberry Commission** ~ 12 pm (Budget Hearing), at Chemeketa Events at Winema, Building 48, Room 210. Contact Bryan Ostlund for more information at 503-364-2944 or bryan@ostlund.com.

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Archived Small Fruit Updates

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

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

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