

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.

February 5, 2013

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Automation for Specialty Crops [Click here](#)

This is a collection of videos showing the most recent research in automating many functions in specialty crops. Most of these are in tree fruits but it's technology that could eventually be adapted to berry crops.

USHBC releases preliminary 2012 Blueberry Production Stats [Click here](#) (1/23, Fresh Plaza)

[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.

British Columbia, Fraser Valley

- **Raspberries & blueberries:** (Sunday, 2/3) Pruning continues on both raspberries and blues. Some copper going on blues. The weather is quite mild and that is a bit concerning. We really don't need these plants waking up quite yet. But I have a feeling it's going to happen anyway. Some early weeds even starting to pop up. February can be a nail biter and looks like it might be again this year.

Northern Washington, Whatcom County

- **Raspberries, blueberries, strawberries:** (Thursday, 1/31) Cold and rain pretty constant here. Still pruning blues, putting on a bit of Gramoxone to kill the chickweed. Raspberries pretty much pruned and tied except for the baby fields. Strawberries-nuthin.

Willamette Valley, Oregon and SW Washington

- **Raspberries & blueberries:** (Monday, 2/4) Seems like one endless meeting just moving to different locations over the last couple of weeks. They're very useful but now it seems like the start of the growing season is on the horizon. We're heading into February where we usually get a week or two of warm(er) weather. Hope we can hold our night temperatures around freezing for a while and keep the ground cold. The plants have had plenty of chilling hours and they're ready to wake up whenever the temps are right—for better or worse. It'd

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](#)

be nice to let them sleep for another month or so—we can do without all those swelling buds and tender tissue being exposed to the usual late season cold spells as well as all the fungal & bacterial agents trying to get into them. So far we haven't had any weather extremes that would cause damage but now we need to get through this late winter/early spring window when the plants break dormancy.

Exporting to Korea for Oregon Blueberry Growers & Packers

The following information is from the Oregon Blueberry Commission.

- “Oregon blueberry packer/processors and growers producing fruit for Korea this season MUST register with the Oregon Department of Agriculture by **5 p.m. Friday, March 1.**”
- The commission has a website set up with all registration forms available. [Click here](#) to go to the site.
- If you have questions contact Bryan Ostlund at the commission office (503-364-2944; bryan@ostlund.com) or Andrea Sonnen, ODA Commodity Inspection Division (503-986-4620; asonnen@oda.state.or.us)

Establishing a Canadian Red Raspberry Promotion Agency

- The Raspberry Industry Development Council (RIDC) has submitted a request to establish a national promotion agency.
- Farm Products Councils of Canada (FPCC) is now soliciting public comments.
- The RIDC strongly encourages all interested parties to submit comments at this time.
- [Click here](#) to go to the FPCC site and submit comments.
- For more information contact the RIDC office at 604-854-8010 or [email](#) them.

Northwest Berry Crop Statistics from the National Ag Statistics service (NASS)

NASS statistics are based on the return on voluntary survey forms.

- [USDA, NASS Berry statistics for Washington & Oregon](#) (1/13/13)
- [USDA, NASS Berry statistics for Oregon - with blackberry cultivars separated](#) (1/13/13)

Pesticide Information

- **Pristine Fungicide:** [Click here](#) for an Update on Pristine use in Oregon Caneberries and Blueberries. *This interpretation of how to apply label restrictions comes from Rose Kachadoorian, Oregon Department of Agriculture, and Joe DeFrancesco, Oregon State University.*
- [Resources for getting up-to-date pesticide labels, labeling and safety data sheets for 2013](#) (1/30, Michigan State University)

Insect and Disease Update

- [University of Florida exploring IPM techniques to control the spotted wing drosophila](#) (1/14, Southern SARE)

Late Winter/Early Spring Weather Risks

Pictorial blueberry growth stages with temperature damage thresholds

- [Blueberry growth stages and critical spring temperatures](#) (Michigan State Extension)
- The relevant stages & temperature thresholds from the chart:
 - **Bud Swell:** “Visible swelling of buds; scales separated. Can tolerate 10-15 F (-12 to -9 C)”.
 - **Tight cluster:** “Individual flowers distinguishable. Can tolerate 20-23 F (-7 to -5 C)”.

Early Spring Weather Management Information

- [Using your sprinkler system to protect blueberries from freezes](#) (Eric Hansen, Michigan State Small Fruit Specialist)
- (All berries) [Frost protection: Tips & Techniques](#) (Kathy Demchek, Penn State)
- [Frost & freeze protection: Blueberries](#) (www.eXtension.org)

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Classifieds

Peerbolt Crop Management Field Services for 2013

We're in the process of planning our field season and begin scout hiring. Anyone who didn't work with us in 2012 & might be interested in contracting for field services this coming season, please contact us soon. Once the scouts are hired & trained our ability to add new field work is limited.

Field services offered:

- **Scouting/monitoring for Spotted Wing Drosophila:** Field monitoring specifically for SWD with weekly email reports on field specific and regional SWD status.
- **Field scouting/monitoring:** Weekly or bi-weekly field monitoring for pests & diseases. Field specific reports with recommendations are emailed and saved online for quick & easy grower access.
- **Certified third party monitoring for blueberry export to Korea:** These pest monitoring protocols require third party pest consultant certification.
- **Custom services:** We can talk with you about adapting our scouting & online reporting resources to meet whatever your specific field management needs might be.

Please call 503-289-7287 or [email](#) for more information or [click here](#) to go to our business website.

Raspberry Pruning Workshops

February 14 and 15 — ~ 9:00-noon, WSU-Mt. Vernon Station, Mt Vernon, WA. "The idea of these workshops is to have growers, horticulturists and ag engineers (including Oxbo and Littau reps) in the field together to brainstorm ideas for raspberry trellising that allows mechanization of at least some parts of pruning and tying. We will have available for your trellising pleasure plots of Meeker, Cascade Bounty, Chemainus and Saanich. We will work as a group to identify several trellising schemes for the plots. Later in the year, the plots will be evaluated for mechanical harvestability and for mechanized pruning and/or tying. Should be a fun time."

[Tom Walters](#), WSU Horticulturalist. (360-420-2776)

Preseason Workshop for Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Growers

February 27 — ORBC & industry sponsored **Production Raspberry & Blackberry Workshop** ~ 8:30-3:30, Wellspring Conference Center, Woodburn. Attendance is free but you need to RSVP since space and lunch are limited. [Click here](#) for the draft agenda. Contact Peerbolt Crop Management by [email](#) or phone 503-289-7287 to RSVP.

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Event Calendar

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

- **February 5** — **Oregon Strawberry Commission** ~ Noon at Landon Farms. For more details call (541) 758- 4043 or [email](#) Philip Gutt.
- **February 20** — **Oregon Strawberry Commission Annual Growers meeting** ~ Time TBA, North Willamette Research & Extension Center, Aurora, OR. For more details call (541) 758- 4043 or [email](#) Philip Gutt.
- **February 26-March 1** — **NABC/USHBC Spring Meeting** ~ Savannah, Georgia. [Click here](#) for registration and agenda information.
- **February 27** — **8th Annual ORBC Production Workshop for Commercial Raspberry and Blackberry Growers**~ *See information above.*
- **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.
- **March 13** — **Oregon Blackberry & Raspberry Commission** ~ 9 am Langdon Farms Golf Club. Call 541-758-4043 or [email](#) Phillip Gutt for more information.
- **April 10** — **Washington Red Raspberry Commission** ~ Puyallup, WA. Call 360-354-8767 or [email](#) Henry Bierlink for more information.

- **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](#).
- **New Posting: June 18-20 — Berry Health Benefits Symposium** ~ Charlotte, North Carolina. [Click here](#) for registration and agenda information.

Industry News/Resources

Newsletters/ Berry Reports

- [Michigan State Extension Blueberry News](#) (2/1)
- [The Source](#) (2/4/13) *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: 1/13— Understanding chill for berries in California** *Reports on recent insect and disease research and observations in California.*
- [Team Rubus](#) by Gina Fernandez, North Carolina State Small Fruit Specialist. **Recent entry: 1/23—NC Commercial Blackberry and Raspberry Growers 6th Annual Meeting** *Reports on issues in blackberries and raspberries from the Southeast.*
- [The NC Blueberry Journal](#) by Bill Cline, North Carolina State Plant Pathologist. **Recent entry: 1/30— Prionus beetle larvae damage Duke blueberries** *Reports on issues in blueberries from the Southeast.*
- [NC Small Fruit and Specialty Crop IPM](#) by Hannah Burrack, NCSU extension entomologist. **Recent entry: 2/3—Spotted wing drosophila confirmed in Indiana and the United Kingdom** *Reports on insect issues in the Southeast.*

Technology

- [New insect trapping device](#) (2/5, Growing Produce)
- [The drive for more precision in crop spraying](#) (2/2013, The Grower)

Labor & Immigration

- (Michigan) [The changing labor landscape: How will farms survive?](#) (1/29, MSU Extension)
- [Bipartisan senate committee tackling immigration reform](#) (1/28, Growing Produce)
- [The fight on the right over immigration](#) (1/29, Politico)

Farm/Food Politics

- [The promise and despair of the farm bill](#) (2/4, Growing Produce)
- [Washington GMO labeling measure qualifies to move to legislature](#) (2/5, The Grower)

West

- (California) [Citrus, strawberries mostly spared by mid-January cold snap](#) (1/29, Capital Press)

North America

- (Florida) [The Blueberry News](#) (Winter 2013) quarterly 40 page magazine produced by the Florida Blueberry Growers Association.
- (Florida) [Unexpected imported strawberries upset area growers at a difficult time](#) (2/5, Fresh Plaza)
- [New York berry production update](#) (1/29, Growing Produce)

International

- [Chilean blueberry quality improves as deal moves south](#) (1/30, The Packer)
- (Chile) [Last week of the season for large blueberry export volumes](#) (2/5, Fresh Plaza)
- (Mexico) [Blueberries offer alternative to Sinaloa growers](#) (2/4, Fresh Fruit Portal)
- (Mexico) [Berries Paradise brings Mexican fruit to new market](#) (1/28, Fresh Fruit Portal)

Crop Work/Pest Management Activities

All crops

- Weed management.
- **Scout for and plan for [Voles](#):** Vole activity is apparent in many blueberry, caneberry, and strawberry fields. Management of voles is most effective in the spring before they start multiplying like...voles. Kind of like weeds (& starlings)—get them before their reproduction cycle kicks in! [Click here](#) for some background and biology information on voles (or meadow mice). [Click here](#) for information on how to construct bait stations.

Blueberries

- **Scout for [Pseudomonas \(Bacterial Blight\)](#)** Water-soaked lesions usually appear in February in some fields that then develop into reddish brown to black cankers.
- **Plan for [Bird](#) issues: **Starling management:**** Right now starlings are beginning to fledge. Population control becomes very difficult later into the season because they multiply rapidly. This is a major pest species — plan your control strategy now.
 - [European starlings and their control](#) (Cornell University)
 - [Starling Population Control Methods](#).(Wild Wing Company)

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Archived Small Fruit Updates

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

[SFU01-23-13](#) [SFU01-08-13](#) [SFU01-03-13 Special Edition](#)

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

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