

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 19, 2013

Table of Contents

- [Food Safety](#)
- [Crop News](#)
- [Event Calendar](#)
- [Industry News](#)
- [Crop Work](#)

[Berries to become top category “one country at a time”](#)

(2/18, FreshFruitPortal) Comments from Driscoll's V.P. of International business & global development

[Food Alliance ceases operations](#)

(2/12, Food Alliance Press release)

[Berries show big growth in 2012](#)

(2/14, The Packer)

[U.S. imports of berries, peppers spike in 2012](#)

(2/13, The Packer)

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

The February-March period presents our berry crops with some specific risks related to plant development and weather extremes. So far, this late winter/spring has remained mild with relatively cold nights. Plant development has not been pushed to the point of being too sensitive to any late cold spells yet. It won't take much for blueberries to be into green tip stage and caneberries into breaking buds where they'd all be much more vulnerable. May or may not happen but be prepared.

Reminders:

- The deadline for Spartan herbicide applications on strawberries is February 28th.
- Zinc phosphide rodent baits can't be legally applied after bud break.
- Blueberry plants become vulnerable to Mummyberry infections at green tip stage (1/8" new growth on vegetative buds).

Tom Peerbolt

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

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](#)

- **Raspberries & blueberries:** (Sunday, 2/17) Pretty well everything in bud swell up here. Nothing opened yet except I did see a field of Junes where the flower bud tips were open and exposing floral parts. Draper flower buds quite advanced and some appear near bud burst which is concerning. No real winter injury seen so far on blues or raspberry. But we haven't had a winter yet so that's only logical. Getting some really mild weather during the daytime (10-13C, 50-55F) but nights are cool to near freezing which keeps things a bit under control. Starting weed control in the blues and some raspberries. Pruning continues in a number of fields.

Willamette Valley, Oregon and SW Washington

- **Blueberries:** (Thursday, 2/14) At the North Willamette Research and Extension Center in Aurora, all of our blueberry cultivars (Duke, Bluecrop, Bluegold, Bluejay, Draper, Aurora, Liberty, Ozarkblue, Reka) are at fruit bud swell stage. Legacy is close to bud burst.
- **Blueberries:** (Thursday, 2/14) Looking at a few blueberry fields yesterday showed some Duke fields in the central valley just beyond bud swell and moving fast to the tight cluster stage. We've got some very mild days coming so they should be showing blossom clusters this next week. Fields looked like they've got a great floral bud numbers. The weather's been dry with a few showers—plenty of field work getting done. Blackened Pseudomonas twigs evident as usual this time of year—something to check out more next week as well as looking for any winter moth.
- **Marionberries** (Friday, 2/15) So far looks like we made it through the winter in good shape, no damage I can see. Now is the time to be brushing the canes to remove brambles. Of course the weather conditions have to be dry enough for things to break off rather than just get knocked around.



Marionberries on February 14. Photos by Bill Dinger.

Washington Food Safety Training Offered

by the Washington Blueberry & Red Raspberry commissions

- [Click here](#) for a detailed information sheet.
- **Locations:** March 19- **Prosser**; March 20- **Vancouver, WA**; March 27- **Mt. Vernon**; March 28- **Lynden**
- Class is free of charge but RSVP is required.
- Buyers of Washington berries and berry products are increasingly requiring growers be third party certified that the meet minimum requirements for food safety.
- The minimum standard for this is GAP (Good Agricultural Practices).
- It is very likely that new federal legislation will require growers to implement these standards soon.
- In order to help you meet these new standards the Washington Blueberry and Red Raspberry commissions will host a series of food safety meetings around the state.
- The training will have capabilities for a Spanish translation for employees and Punjabi at the Lynden location.

Washington Workshop on Maximum Residue Levels (MRL's)

by the Washington Blueberry commission

- **March 20** — 10:00 am to 3:00 pm Location TBA (in the Mt Vernon-Seattle vicinity).
- Growers, exporters, handlers and other berry industry personnel are encouraged to attend.
- *An RSVP is required.* Please contact the Washington Blueberry Commission office abragg@centurytel.net, 509 266 4300.
- The objectives of the meeting are
 - Update attendees latest MRL developments.
 - Communicate back to the Commission on what it needs to be doing in regards to MRLs and developing export markets.
- Speakers will include Matt Lantz from [Bryant Christie, Inc.](#), Mike Willett from [Northwest Hort Council](#), John Dunley from WilburEllis, [Joe DeFrancesco](#) from OSU, [Lynell Tanigoshi](#) from WSU and Alan Schreiber from the [Washington Blueberry Commission](#).

FDA Public Hearing in Portland on Food Safety Modernization Act

- [FDA takes food safety meetings to Chicago and Portland](#) (2/12, The Packer)
- **March 27** — 8:30-5:00, Crown Plaza, Downtown Portland Convention Center. [Click here](#) for details.
- For more information on the FMSA including factsheets [click here](#).

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

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.

Crop Management

- Glyphosate resistance: [EPA urged to mandate weed resistance management](#) (2/11, Western Farm Press)

Insect and Disease Update

- SWD-Utah: [Utahns asked to help trap new threat to peaches, raspberries](#) (2/6, Daily Herald)

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)

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.

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

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.

Event Calendar

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

- **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.
- **New Posting: March 20 — Oregon Blueberry Commission: Workshop on Maximum Residue Levels** ~10:00 am to 3:00 pm Location TBA (in the Mt Vernon-Seattle vicinity). *An RSVP is required.* For information, please contact the Washington Blueberry Commission office abragg@centurytel.net, 509 266 4300.
- **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](#).
- **June 18-20 — Berry Health Benefits Symposium** ~ Charlotte, North Carolina. [Click here](#) for registration and agenda information.

Industry News/Resources

Newsletters/ Berry Reports

- [Whatcom Ag Monthly Newsletter](#) (2/15) *Good articles on food safety, raspberry yield decline, blueberry root rot as well as weather data.*
- [Michigan State Extension Blueberry News](#) (2/14)
- [The Source](#) (2/18) *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: 2/15—Light Brown Apple Moth Management in 2013** *Reports on recent insect and disease research and observations in California.*
- [Team Rubus](#) by Gina Fernandez, North Carolina State Small Fruit Specialist. **Recent entry: 2/13—Mark Bolda wins NARBA award** *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.*

Research

- Strawberries: [High Tunnels Vary Greatly](#) (2/11, Growing Produce)
- Strawberries: [Postharvest treatment with chitosan to control the storage decay](#) (2/11, Fresh Plaza)

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

Marketing

- [Blueberry Council, 'Biggest Loser' host partner](#) (2/6, The Packer)

Technology

- [Drone boosters say farmers, not cops, are the biggest U.S. robot market](#) (2/5, Wired)
- [MyTraps app tracks insects](#) (2/15, Western Farm Press)
- [2013 Precision Agriculture Product Review](#) (2/1, PrecisionAg)

Intellectual Property/Patent Law

- [U.S. ag wary as Monsanto heads to Supreme Court](#) (2/15, Ag Professional)

Food Safety

- [Food safety: Complicated rules will require study](#) (2/13, AgAlert)
- [Imports responsible for half of food-borne illness outbreaks](#) (2/12, PRHub)
- [FSMA changes pest control for food manufacturers](#) (2/5, Food Processing)
- [Food Safety Modernization Act \(FSMA\) website for small farms launched by OSU](#)

Labor & Immigration

- [New push for immigration reform](#) (2/15, Growing Produce)
- [On immigration, parties united on need for reform but divided on how to proceed](#) (2/13, Washington Post)
- [House committee considers immigration reform](#) (2/7, The Packer)

Farm/Food Politics

- [GMO labeling campaigns enter new battlegrounds](#) (2/6, Triple Pundit)

West

- Oregon: [OSU statewide services budget flat](#) (2/7, Capital Press)
- Cal: [Honey bee shortage alarms California almond industry](#) (2/12, Western Farm Press)

- Cal: [Strawberry commission, Cal Poly launch research center](#) (2/13, The Packer)
- Cal: [California Giant boosts strawberry acreage](#) (2/7, The Packer)

Pollination

- [Florida sends bees west as pollination crisis nears](#) (2/18, Growing Produce)
- [Almond growers in for a rough ride this week](#) (2/19, Growing Produce)

North America

- Florida: [Florida strawberry growers to assess possible freeze damage](#) (2/19, Andnowuknow.com)
- [Farmers may avoid volatility in fertilizer prices](#) (2/13, AgAlert)
- [Berry organization honors SWD expert](#) (2/12, Growing Produce)

International

- Chile: [Chile ships 45 tonnes of raspberries to the U.S.](#) (1/18, Fresh Plaza)
- Chile: [Blueberry exports once again above expectations](#) (2/15, Fresh Plaza)
- Mexico: [Berries Paradise exports blueberries to Japan](#) (2/18, Fresh Plaza)
- Mexico: [Mexico prepares producers to reach European shelves](#) (2/14, The Global Fruit)
- Chile: [Indigenous association raspberry exporter marks growth](#) (2/13, The Global Fruit)

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)
- **Winter Moth/ Bruce Span Worm blueberries:** Scouting for winter moth larvae should start as soon as the buds start swelling. We've had reports in previous years of problems beginning this early but it's usually in a couple of weeks. More of an ongoing issue in the northern growing regions but also an occasional, locally severe problem in some Oregon and SW Washington fields.
- **Scale blueberries:** A dormant oil or Esteem (pyriproxyfen) can be used while blueberries are dormant.

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

Archived Small Fruit Updates

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

[SFU02-05-13](#) [SFU01-23-13](#) [SFU01-08-13](#)

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