

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.

April 30, 2013

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[Inventure Foods signs letter of intent to acquire berry processing business from Willamette Valley Fruit Company](#) (4/25, Market Watch)

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

The major story right now is this week's weather extremes. Across the region there are low temperature alerts for tonight. Take all precautions needed depending on your location and crop. Certainly strawberries and blueberries in bloom are at risk.

After that we're going into a hot pattern with a possible four days of over 80 degrees (27C) in the Willamette Valley starting Thursday. Water up.

There will be a big concentration of bloom. Probably indicates a concentration of harvest time on many fields also.

Tom Peerbolt, SFU Editor

Tonight's ORBC Meeting location correction:

- **April 30: Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission**
~ 6 pm [Hayden's Grill](#) 8187 SW Tualatin-Sherwood Rd., Tualatin.
- Call 541-758-4043 or [email](#) Phillip Gutt for more information.

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

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

- **Blueberries:** (Monday, 4/29) First floral fungicide sprays going on the blues (Reka, Hardiblu, early Dukes) as bloom levels increase. Most Dukes not at 10% yet except in early areas in the Fraser valley but this will change as this warm week progresses. Shock virus symptoms are quite noticeable now in Dukes, Bluejay, Bluecrop and Liberty. Scorch symptoms won't be far away from showing up.

Whatcom County, Northern Washington (Thursday, 4/25)

- **Blueberries:** Blues just getting into first bloom spray on the Rekas and Bluejay.
- **Raspberries:** We're starting the second round of raspberry fertilizer. Still a surprising lack of insects and mites. Lots of leaf feed is being applied. New plantings are almost done.
- **Strawberries:** Strawberry prebloom applications on, now we wait for bloom.

Willamette Valley, Oregon and SW Washington

At Salem airport 9.6 inches behind normal rainfall since January 1 and 3.73 behind since October 1. Degree days Salem airport shows 7 days ahead of 2012, 15 days ahead of 2011 and 9 days ahead of 30 year normal. Not sure I buy all the degree day info but think it is interesting. We are at least a week ahead of 2012 on bloom.

- **Strawberries:** (Monday, 4/29) Bloom is coming on very strong now in all varieties and with 80 (27C) degree temps later this week it could be a fast bloom period. Based on the bloom timing it looks like the processed harvest should get going around the 4th or 5th of June. If the bloom period gets condensed it could also be a condensed harvest period.

Strawberries on 4/26/13—Western Willamette Valley

Hood



Albion



Photos by Jason Myer

Blueberry bud development—Western Willamette Valley

4-19-13 (Bottom)

4-26-13 (Top)

Patriot

Duke

Draper

Liberty

Elliott

Petal Fall

50% bloom

50% bloom

25-35% bloom

10% bloom



Petal Fall

15-25% bloom

5-10% bloom

5% bloom

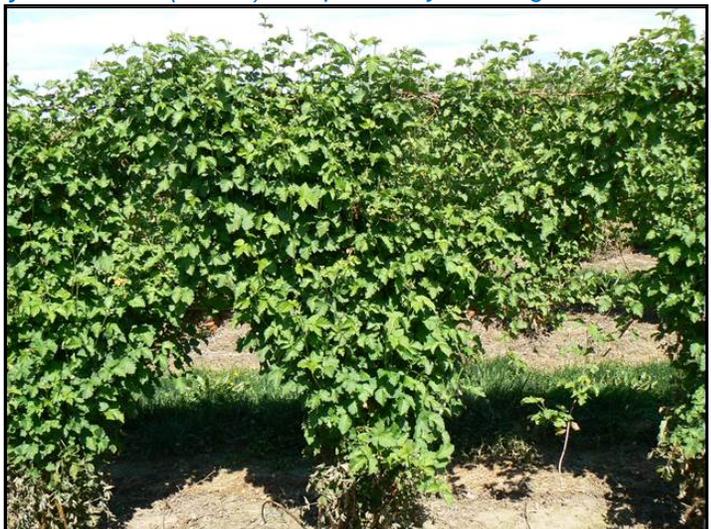
1-5% bloom



Blackberries: (Tuesday, 4/30) Black Diamonds started to bloom, less than one percent as of today. If you are going to get on a pre-bloom spray, now is the time. Marionberries should have an occasional bloom by the end of the week. Pollination weather looks promising. Have not seen any water going but as dry as it's been, and the plants start to really pull moisture, it will dry out.



April 29, 2013 Marionberries (above) Boysenberries (below) All photos by Bill Dinger



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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:
 - **Late pink bud:** "Individual flowers fully developed. Expanded corollas are now white but still closed. This bud stage can tolerate 24 to 27°F (-4.4 to -2.8°C)."
 - **Full bloom:** "Most of the flowers on the bush have opened. The bloom stages can tolerate 28°F (-2.2°C)."
 - **Petal Fall:** "The corolla tubes are falling off the flowers, revealing small green fruit. This is the most vulnerable stage to freeze injury. Damage can occur at 32°F (0°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)

Grower Resources

- [How to succeed with highbush blueberry pollination](#) (4/24, MSU Extension)

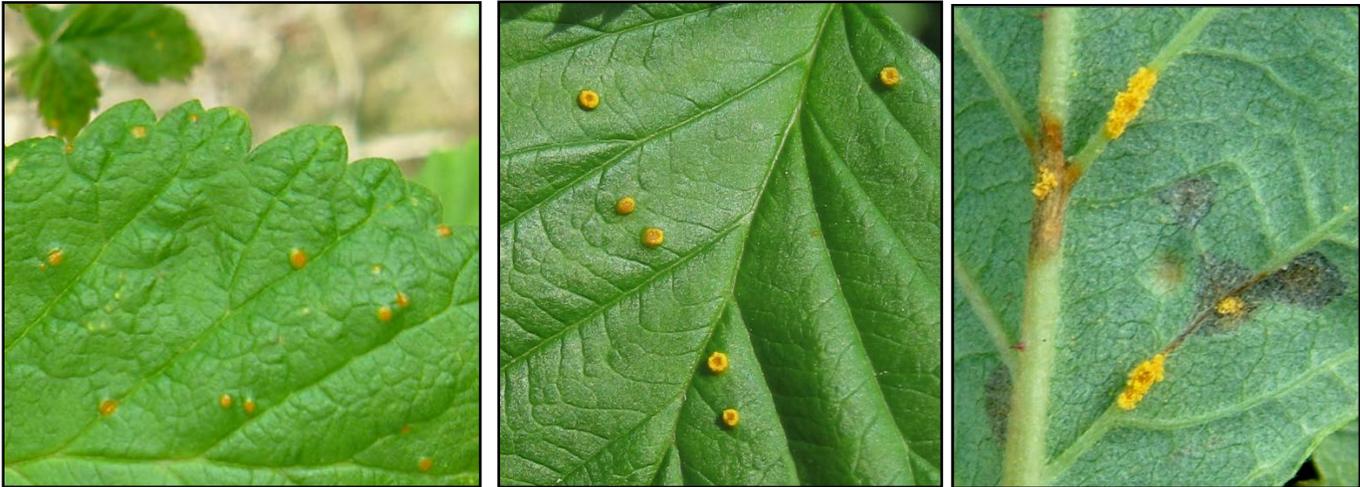
- [Brown Marmorated Stink Bug history and identification video](#) (4/8, YouTube-Northeast IPM)
Excellent intro video to this potential northwest pest.

Nutrient Management

- [Click here](#) for OSU's "Nutrient Management in Blueberries" (16 page pdf).
- [Click here](#) for OSU's "Nutrient Management Guide—Caneberries" (8 page pdf).
- [Click here](#) for OSU's "Strawberry Fertilizer Guide" (1 page pdf).

Pest Alerts

Time to start scouting for: [Yellow Rust](#) Raspberries –



Stages of Yellow Rust (from left) spermagonia, aecia, uredinia: Right now it's mostly in the first stage.
(Middle photo by Carolyn Teasdale, others by Tom Peerbolt)

- Yellow rust is now changing spore stages from yellow/orange colored 'blisters' (spermagonia) on the top surface of leaves to a very visible, almost day-glow orange/yellow spore stage (aecia).
- The fourth spore stage (uredinia) appears later in the season as yellow 'dust' on the bottom of leaves. This last stage is the one that multiplies quickly & can quickly defoliate canes if left untreated.
- Evaluate disease incidence and stage to determine whether (& when) fungicide applications are warranted.

Vector management: [Scorch virus](#) – Areas with confirmed scorch virus present.

Blueberries, Vector (aphid) management

- From an April, 2011 B.C. Pest Alert: "Blueberry scorch virus is transmitted by aphids. An effective aphid control program should be used by all growers. *Fields should be treated before bloom with a registered aphicide to control the over-wintering aphids before they reproduce and disperse.*"
- Click on the blue link above for full information from the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture. Check with your berry management specialists, both public and private, for more specific recommendations and selection of appropriate management materials.
- You can also email the B.C. Blueberry Council's research coordinator, [Karina Sakalauskas](#) (or call her at (604) 613-2133) for information.

Time to scout for: [Shock virus](#) –blueberries.

- Symptoms are becoming visible in many fields in the southern areas.
- This disease is vectored by pollinators.
- There is no treatment or cure.
- Infected bushes generally display symptoms for one year and then return to productivity.

Prime time to scout for and prevent: [Mummyberry](#), blueberries.

Fields at risk should have a protective fungicide on the susceptible tissue at this time to minimize infections.

Factors that increase risk of infections:

- If we have periods when plant tissue is continually wet for the 12 hours or more required for infection.
- If our temperatures are near the optimal range for infections to take place (50-57°F / 10-14°C).
- [Mummyberry primer from MSU](#)
- Secondary infection symptoms have just begun showing up in southern fields.(see below).



*Secondary Mummyberry Strikes 4/26/13 Left-Liberty; Right-Spartan
Left photo: Tom Peerbolt; Right photo: Jason Myer*

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Ongoing Pest Information

- **Scout for: [Azalea Bark Scale](#), blueberries.** *This scale's telltale bright white egg sacs on the lower branches of infested plants are now apparent in some southern blueberry fields.*
- **Scout for: Root Weevils, strawberries.** Larvae of [Black Vine](#), [Rough Strawberry](#), [Strawberry Root Weevils](#) are now being recovered from some strawberry fields.
- **Scout for: [Blueberry Gall Midge](#), southern blueberries.** *Tip damage from this midge is due to begin showing up in southern blueberries. Damage is usually deemed to not be economic except in specific situations like new vigorous fields where gall midge can occasionally cause too much stunting of new growth.*
- **Prime Time to Scout for: Mites in raspberries (northern growing areas): [Twospotted mites](#) [Yellow mites](#)** *There are reports of higher than normal early mite populations in northern raspberry fields.*
- **Prime Time to Scout for: [Winter Moth/Bruce Span Worm](#) blueberries**
- **Prime Time to Scout for: [Clay Colored Weevils](#) northern raspberries & blueberries:** *This early emerging species is a pest in northern growing areas where it feeds on newly emerging shoots and buds.*
- **Prime Time to Scout for: [Strawberry Crown Moth](#) southern strawberries:** *As plant growth resumes, plants weakened by SCM can be spotted. Infested plants will have a weakened crown and often will break off with a pull on the top growth.*

Crop Work

All crops

- Vole management.
- Weed management.
- Fertilizer program.
- Can put out monitoring traps for Spotted Wing Drosophila.

Blueberries

- Bring in bees around 10% bloom.
- Apply bloom applications to prevent fruit molds.
- Treat for [Mummyberry](#) as needed. (See Alert at top of newsletter)
- Scout for virus symptoms & send in samples for testing as needed.
- Scout for [leafroller larvae](#) feeding.
- Scout for [Shock virus](#) symptoms in southern area fields.
- Plan for pre-bloom [aphid](#) control where [scorch virus](#) transmission is an issue.
- Scout for [winter moth/Bruce spanworm](#) larvae.
- Scout for scale insects.
- Scout for weevil notching.

Blackberries

- Can apply phosphite material for Downey Mildew prevention in Boysens and Kotatas.
- Scout for virus symptoms & send in samples for testing as needed.
- Burn back primocanes as needed.

Evergreen Blackberries

- Scout for and treat as needed for Blackberry rust.

Raspberries

- Burn back primocanes as needed.
- (northern areas) Scout for [Clay Colored Weevil](#) feeding and treat as needed.
- Scout for [twospotted mites](#).
- Scout for virus symptoms & send in samples for testing as needed.
- Can apply a phosphite material for stronger root growth and root rot prevention.
- Scout for Yellow Rust and assess treatment options.
- Scout for spider mites and treat as needed.

Strawberries

- Watch for weak growing areas and check plants for [weevil larvae](#), [root rot](#) and/or cold damage.
- Can apply fungicides starting at 10% bloom.
- (Southern strawberries) Can scout for [Strawberry Crown Moth](#) larvae.
- Can apply phosphite materials to strengthen root systems and manage root rot.

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Industry News/Resources

Stories from the International Blueberry Organization Summit held in Chile last week

- [Blueberry industry funds \\$1,000,000 for metabolic health research](#) (4/25, Fresh Fruit Portal)
- [Product development could boost blueberries](#) (4/25, Fresh Fruit Portal)
- Canada: [British Columbia looks to big blueberry growth](#) (4/25, Fresh Fruit Portal)
- [Argentina & Uruguay push to keep stagnant blueberry industries ahead](#) (4/25, Fresh Fruit Portal)
- [China short on blueberries for key national festival](#) (4/25, Fresh Fruit Portal)

Newsletters/ Berry Reports

- [BC Blueberry IPM Newsletter](#) (4/26) Weekly by Carolyn Teasdale, [ES Cropconsult](#). Sponsored by the BC Blueberry Council.
- [Michigan State Extension Blueberry News](#) (4/30)
- [New Jersey Blueberry Bulletin](#) (4/22) Excellent weekly newsletter by Gary Pavlis, Rutgers blueberry agent.
- [The Source](#) (4/29) Market reports from The Produce News
- [Market Pulse](#) (Week 16) Market reports from Fresh Fruit Portal

- [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'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](#) by Mark Bolda, UC Davis Berry Extension Agent. **Recent entry: 4/25—Light Brown Apple Moth Training Meeting Reports on recent insect and disease research and observations in California.**
- [Team Rubus](#) by Gina Fernandez, North Carolina State Small Fruit Specialist. **Recent entry: 4/29—Buds are tight but not for long!** Reports on issues in blackberries and raspberries from the Southeast.
- [NC Small Fruit and Specialty Crop IPM](#) by Hannah Burrack, NCSU extension entomologist. **Recent entry: 4/24—More thoughts on SWD trapping for 2013: How many traps should growers use?** Reports on insect issues in the Southeast.

Breeding/Research

- [Chile \(Hortifrut\) releases two creeping blackberry varieties](#) (4/29, Fresh Fruit Portal)
- [Hortifrut launches its first remontant blackberry varieties](#) (4/26, Fresh Plaza) “remontant” means flowering more than once a season—like roses. I had to look it up, too.

Marketing/Health stories

- [Superfoods: 11 berries to improve your health](#) (4/26, Mother Nature Network)

Pesticide Issues

- [Farmers' group takes aim at 'Dirty Dozen' produce list](#) (4/29, Capital Press)
- [Judge dismisses environmentalist lawsuit targeting pesticides](#) (4/23, Capital Press)
- [European Union to ban neonicotinoids pesticides](#) (4/29, Fresh Plaza)

Food Politics

- ['Food fight' brewing on Capitol Hill](#) (4/24, The Californian) *The canned fruit industry is trying to get the word 'fresh' stricken from fruit requirements for school food purchases.*
- [Senate to take up farm bill in May](#) (4/25, The Hill)

Technology

- [Suspect a new invasive pest? Report it with this app](#) (4/25, The Grower)

Food Safety

- [Producer groups launch FSMA guidelines](#) (4/29, Food Production Daily)

Labor & Immigration

- [Oregon senate passes driver's card bill](#) (4/23, Capital Press)
- [UFW opposes House immigration bills](#) (4/29, Capital Press)
- [Immigration bill debate begins in U.S. Senate](#) (4/24, AgAlert)

Industry

- [Curry & Co. adds industry veteran as director of sales & business development for berries](#) (4/29, Produce News)

West

- California: [California hunkering down for a good blueberry season](#) (4/29, The Produce News)
- Washington: [Campaign for GM food labeling gets new state battleground](#) (4/29, Food Safety News)

North America

- Florida: [Blueberry growers still riding the “blue wave”](#) (4/24, Fresh Plaza)

International

- China: [“Milky” strawberries reflect Chinese organic produce popularity](#) (4/24, Fresh Fruit Portal)
- Italy: [As counter-season ends, national small fruit campaign begins](#) (4/25, Fresh Plaza)
- [Australia to achieve year-round blueberry supply](#) (4/25, Fresh Fruit Portal)

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Food Safety Events

Oregon Food Safety Training Offered

by the Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry, Blueberry, and Strawberry commissions

- [Click here](#) for the website with registration and detailed information.
- Class is free of charge but RSVP is required.
- **Dates & locations:**
 - **May 2** Riverbend Organic Farm – 35711 Helms Dr., Jefferson
 - **May 7** Willamette Valley Fruit Co. – 2994 82nd Ave NE, Salem
 - **May 16** HBF International – 310 NE Kirby St, McMinnville
 - **May 21** Western Star Grange Hall #309 – 30423 Tangent Dr., Albany

Event Calendar

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

- **Corrected location: April 30** — [Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission](#) ~ 6 pm [Hayden's Grill](#) 8187 SW Tualatin-Sherwood Rd., Tualatin, OR. Call 541-758-4043 or [email](#) Phillip Gutt for more information.
- **May 6** — [Oregon Blueberry Commission](#) ~ Noon at [Chemeteka Community College](#), Chemeteka Events at Winema, building 48, room 210. For more details call (503) 364-2944 or email [Lisa Ostlund](#).
- **May 9** — **Oregon Strawberry Commission** ~ 6 pm [Langdon Farms Golf Club](#). Call 541-758-4043 or [email](#) Phillip Gutt for more information.
- **May 9** — **Webinar on the Department of Labor Hot Goods Issue:** [Click here](#) for information & registration (*Washington Farm Labor Association*)
- **May 23** — **Willamette Valley Berry Fieldman/Grower Breakfast May Topic: Spotted Wing Drosophila Update** ~ 7:30 to 9:00 am, [Langdon Farms Golf Club](#), 24377 NE Airport Road, Aurora, OR. Call 503-289-7287 or [email](#) for more information.
- **June 5** — **OSU Strawberry Open House** ~ 1-4:30 pm, North Willamette Research & Extension Station, Aurora Details TBA
- **June 18-20** — **Berry Health Benefits Symposium** ~ Charlotte, North Carolina. [Click here](#) for registration and agenda information.
- **June 27** — **Willamette Valley Berry Fieldman/Grower Breakfast** ~ 7:30 to 9:00 am, [Langdon Farms Golf Club](#), 24377 NE Airport Road, Aurora, OR. Call 503-289-7287 or [email](#) for more information.
- **July 10** — **OSU Caneberry Open House** ~ 1-5 pm, [North Willamette Research & Extension Station](#), Aurora Details TBA
- **July 12-13** — **Oregon Berry Festival** ~ Portland, Sponsored by the Oregon berry commissions as well as many Oregon berry farms and berry related businesses. [Click here](#) for the website with a schedule of events and more details.
- **July 17** — **OSU Blueberry Field Day** ~ 1-5 pm, [North Willamette Research & Extension Station](#), Aurora Details TBA
- **July 19 - 20** — **Northwest Raspberry Festival** ~ Lynden, Sponsored by the Lynden Chamber of Commerce. [Click here](#) for the website with a schedule of events and more details.
- **July 25** — **Willamette Valley Berry Fieldman/Grower Breakfast** ~ 7:30 to 9:00 am, [Langdon Farms Golf Club](#), 24377 NE Airport Road, Aurora, OR. Call 503-289-7287 or [email](#) for more

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Archived Small Fruit Updates

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

[SFU04-23-13](#) [SFU04-17-13](#) [SFU04-09-13](#)

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

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