

# 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 18, 2014**

**Week 8**

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- Chile: [Complex season means new markets for Chilean blueberries](#) (2/17, Fresh Fruit Portal)
- [Oregon Blueberry Commission announces establishment of scholarship program](#) March 1<sup>st</sup> deadline to apply. Really great idea.

[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** (Thursday, 2/13)

- I haven't been able to get out for field assessments yet, as the warm just happened here and it is still 4C (39F) at night, so nothing much is moving along. We had 15C (59F) in the eastern Fraser Valley before the latest cold of 10 days hit and I had already seen green on blueberry buds and even further with raspberries and blackberries so I am keen to check on bud damage. We also had the soil near saturated when it froze, which means we had severe frost heaving which will have done damage to some of the roots. Otherwise, it is now soggy with storm after storm hitting the coast.

### **Northern Washington, Whatcom County** (Friday, 7/5)

- I started cutting buds yesterday checking for cold damage and was pleasantly surprised that I saw no damage in the Draper or Duke. Looks like some first year raspberry fields took hits. We'll see how that turns out.

### **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](#)

## Labor & Food Safety Meetings

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### Washington Blueberry and Red Raspberry Commissions

To attend any of these, you need to RSVP by emailing [jpeterston@centurytel.net](mailto:jpeterston@centurytel.net) or calling 509-266-4300 3 days prior to the session.

[Click here](#) for more information.

#### **Mornings: Food Safety Afternoons: Labor**

- Morning sessions-9:30-noon, Food Safety Update/training, Phil Schoening, Wilbur Ellis GAP consultant
- Afternoon sessions-1-4pm, Labor laws & Practical ways growers can stay in line with the laws,
- Richard Longo, DOL Western Region Director of Enforcement & Ruben Lugo, DOL Ag Coordinator.
- Lunch will be provided. RSVP Required
- **February 25 —Mt Vernon**, WSU-NWREC, 16650 Hwy
- **February 26 —Lynden**, NW WA Fairgrounds, Rotary Building, 1775 Front Street.
- **March 5—Prosser**, WSU, IAREC, 24106 N. Bunn Road.
- **March 6 — Vancouver**, WSU- Vancouver, 14204 NE Salmon Creek Ave, Building VDEN 129.

### OR Blueberry, Strawberry, and Blackberry & Raspberry Commissions

Free Food Safety “Train the Trainers” Workshops—3 hour program

[Click here](#) for all the information and to sign up

- **February 26** — Scenic Fruit Company, Gresham
- **February 28** — North Willamette Research & Extension Center, Aurora
- **March 5** — Willamette Valley Fruit Company, Salem
- **March 12** — Woodburn Fertilizer/Wilbur-Ellis, Woodburn
- **March 14** — Riverbend Organic Farm, Jefferson
- **March 19** — HBF International, McMinnville
- **March 27** — Columbia Gorge CC, The Dalles
- **March 28** — Pine Grove Grange, Hood River
- **April 3** — Fairview Grange, Tillamook
- **April 4** — Lincoln City Cultural Center, Lincoln City
- **April 23** — Unger Farm Store, Cornelius
- **April 25** — Santo Community Center, Medford

## Late Winter/Early Spring Weather Risks

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### 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](http://www.eXtension.org))

## Grower Survey for Berry Pollination Research—Your input needed!

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A very large USDA pollinator research project (with cooperation from B.C. researchers) is in need of an idea of what the actual pollinator situation is for Northwest berry growers. Please help out & take the survey.

- [Click here](#) for a November article in Growing Produce describing the project.
- [Click here](#) to view the project’s website.
- [Click here](#) to take the survey.

## Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Production Workshop

- February 26 — 9th Annual ORBC Production Workshop for Commercial Raspberry & Blackberry Growers
  - 8-4 pm at the Wellspring Conference Center, 1475 Mt. Hood Ave., Woodburn.
  - We've got a couple of speakers addressing labor including a representative from the federal Department of Labor (DOL).
  - [Click here](#) for the agenda.
  - Please RSVP if you plan on coming. It's free but space and food are limited. Call 503-289-7287 or email [lora@peerbolt.com](mailto:lora@peerbolt.com)

## MRL (Maximum Residue Level) Updates for Exported Fruit

(NT = No Tolerance established)

### SWD Insecticide changes for 2014

#### Blueberries

Ingredient	Trade Name	Country	Old MRL	New MRL	USA MRL
Spinetoram	Delegate	Japan	NT	<b>0.5</b>	0.25
		Korea	0.1	<b>0.2</b>	0.25

#### Raspberries

Ingredient	Trade Name	Country	Old MRL	New MRL	USA MRL
Spinetoram	Delegate	Korea	0.1	<b>0.5</b>	0.25

### Updated SWD Insecticide Options list with MRLs for Oregon and Washington

- Blueberries [Click here](#)
- Caneberries [Click here](#)
- Strawberries [Click here](#)

### Other 2014 MRL Changes Relevant to Northwest Berry Exports

#### Blueberries

Ingredient	Trade Name	Country	Old MRL	New MRL	USA MRL
Novaluron	Rimon	Japan	NT	7.0	7.0
Chlorantraniliprole	/Altacor	Japan	NT	3.0	0.25
Spirotetramat	/Movento	Korea	NT	0.5	0.3
<i>(Movento has a Canadian label but none in U.S yet)</i>					
Glufosinate	Rely	Canada	NT	0.1	0.15
Metconazole	Quash	Canada	NT	0.4	0.4
Ziram	Ziram	Korea	2.0	5.0	7.0

#### Caneberries

Ingredient	Trade Name	Country	Old MRL	New MRL	USA MRL
Chlorantraniliprole	/Altacor	Japan	NT	2.0	1.8
Boscalid	Pristine	USA	6.0	10.0	10.0

### New 2014 MRLs Relevant to Northwest Berry Exports

#### Blueberries

Ingredient	Trade Name	USA	Japan	EU/UK	Notes
<i>Spartan &amp; Proline have the following MRLs established but as of now have no labels</i>					
Sulfentrazone	/Spartan	0.15	0.05	NT	All others NT
Prothioconazole	/Proline	2.0	NT	0.02	All others NT

## • Caneberries

<u>Ingredient</u>	<u>Trade Name</u>	<u>USA</u>	<u>Korea</u>	<u>EU/UK</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Halosulfuron	/Sanda	0.05	0.05	0.01	<i>All others NT</i>
<i>Intrepid has the following MRLs established but as of now has no label</i>					
Methoxyfenozide	/Intrepid	6.0	0.7 (Black)	0.02	<i>All others NT</i>
Methoxyfenozide	/Intrepid	6.0	1.0 (Red)	0.02	<i>All others NT</i>

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## Industry news/resources

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### Meeting Presentations

- [North Willamette Horticulture Society Berry Section](#) (Held January 16, 2014, Canby, OR) *PDF's of many of the PowerPoint presentations.*
- [Washington Small Fruit Conference](#) (Held December 5 & 6, 2013, Lynden, WA) *Videos of many of the berry related presentations.*
- [Northeast \(US\) SWD IPM Working Group—Presentation/Reports](#) (held October 30, 2013, Bridgeton, N.J.)
- [California 2014 Annual Central Coast Strawberry meeting](#) *PDF's of PowerPoint presentations.*

### Newsletters/ Berry reports

- [Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry and Strawberry Commission Updates](#) (2/15)
- [Whatcom Ag Monthly](#) *Produced by WSU Whatcom County Extension. Includes excellent berry crop information.*
- [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:** **2/1—Understanding the sodium results on a soil analysis** *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—Assessing cold damage in blackberry and raspberry buds--Updated** *Reports on issues in blackberries and raspberries from the Southeast.*

### Water/Climate

- [Storm provides Northwest much-needed moisture](#) (2/11, Capital Press)
- [California ag groups seek consensus on drought relief](#) (2/14, Capital Press)

### Food Safety

- [Changing face of food safety in 2014](#) (2/12, Food Quality News)

### Technology/equipment

- [With small farmers in mind, tool maker thinks big](#) (2/12, Capital Press)

### Politics & Ag



- Oregon: [Pesticide bill amendment sets up task force](#) (2/12, Capital Press)
- Immigration: [It's now or never for immigration reform, supporter says](#) (2/14, Capital Press)

### Business

- [Driscoll's takes berry experience to next level](#) (2/11, Fresh Plaza)

### West

- [California strawberry growers deal with drought](#) (2/13, The Packer)
- [California strawberry growers fill Florida gap](#) (2/13, The Packer)

### North America

- U.S.: [Imports exceed export gains](#) (2/13, The Packer) *Berry info from story: "Exports of U.S. berries gained 5% in both volume and value in 2013, at \$754 million — 15% of all fresh fruit exports."*

### International

(FFP=Fresh Fruit Portal)

- Mexico: [Berry industry hopes for October market opening in China](#) (2/12, FFP)
- United Kingdom: [Giant strawberries on sale in UK](#) (2/12, Fresh Plaza)
- European Union: [Driscoll's celebrates first pick of glasshouse strawberries](#) (2/12, Fresh Plaza)

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## **Crop Work/Pest Management Activities Week 8**

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### **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.



## Event calendar

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- **February 18 — Bayer's Bee Care Tour** ~ "Buzzing into Oregon: The Bee Care Tour. The Tour is part of Bayer's effort to foster education and collaboration among growers, beekeepers, researchers and other interested in engaging in topics related to honey bee health." Oregon State University, 10 am - Noon, CH2M Hill Alumni Center, Cascade Ballroom, 725 SW 26th St., Corvallis, OR 97331. [Email](#) to RSVP.
- **February 19 — Oregon Strawberry Commission Annual Meeting** ~ 9-2 pm at the North Willamette Research & Extension Center, Aurora. [Click here](#) for the agenda & contact information.
- **February 21 — OSU Hood River Blueberry Pruning Workshop** ~ [Click here](#) for information. Call or [email](#) Steve Castagnoli 541-386-3343 ext 255 with questions.
- **February 22 — Oregon Small Farms Conference.** This daylong event is geared toward farmers, agriculture professionals, food policy advocates, students and managers of farmers markets. OSU campus in Corvallis at the LaSells Steward Center and CH2M Hill Alumni Center. [Click here](#) for conference registration and a link to the schedule.
- **New Posting: February 25 — WBC and WRRRC Food Safety Training.** Mt Vernon, WSU-NWREC, 16650 Hwy 536. 9:30am to 4pm. RSVP is required. For more information, [click here](#).
- **February 26 — 9th Annual ORBC Production Workshop for Commercial Raspberry and Blackberry Growers** ~ at the Wellspring Conference Center, 1475 Mt. Hood Ave., Woodburn, OR. [Click here](#) for the agenda. For more information, call the Peerbolt Crop Management office (503)289-7287 or [email Tom Peerbolt](#).
- **New Posting: February 26 — WBC and WRRRC Food Safety Training.** Lynden, NW WA Fairgrounds, Rotary Building, 1775 Front Street. 9:30am to 4pm. RSVP is required. For more information, [click here](#).
- **February 26-28 — NABC/USHBC Spring Meeting.** Westlake Village, CA. [Click here](#) for the online registration page.
- **New Posting: March 5— WBC and WRRRC Food Safety Training.** WSU, IAREC, 24106 N. Bunn Road. 9:30am to 4pm. RSVP is required. For more information, [click here](#).
- **New Posting: March 6 — WBC and WRRRC Food Safety Training.** Vancouver-WSU, 14204 NE Salmon Creek Ave, Building VDEN 129. 9:30am to 4pm. RSVP is required. For more information, [click here](#).
- **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](mailto:bryan@ostlund.com)
- **New Posting: March 19 — Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission meeting.** Committee meetings start at 9 am. Regular meeting at 12. At Langdon Farms Golf Club. Call 541-758-4043 or [email Phillip Gutt](#) for more information
- **New Posting: April 3 — Oregon Strawberry Commission meeting.** Committee meetings start at 4:30. Regular meeting at 6. At Langdon Farms Golf Club. [Click here](#) for the agenda. Call 541-758-4043 or [email Phillip Gutt](#) for more information.
- **April 7- 9 — Global Berry Congress** ~ in Amsterdam. [Click here](#) for the conference's information page and registration.
- **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](mailto:bryan@ostlund.com).

**May 11-13 — International Raspberry Organization Conference** ~ Chuzhou, China. [Contact Henry Bierlink](#) for more information.

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## **Archived Small Fruit Updates**

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

[06-SFU02-06-14](#) [04-SFU01-21-14](#) [03-SFU01-14-14](#)

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

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