

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 25, 2014

Week 9

Table of Contents

- [Regional reports](#)
- [Grower resources](#)
- [Classifieds](#)
- [Pest management](#)
- [Industry news/resources](#)
- [Crop work](#)
- [Event calendar](#)

- [Dutch firm rolls out innovative mobile cooling technology](#) (2/21, Fresh Fruit Portal)
 - [The truth about who owns organic food companies, in one chart](#) (2/20, PolicyMic.com) "Since 1995, the number of independent organic food processing companies in the U.S. has been cut down from 81 to 15..."
 - [Higher minimum wages hurt competitiveness, Western Growers Assn CEO says](#) (2/17, Capital Press)
- [The Weather Cafe](#) by Rufus La Lone [Small Fruit Cold Storage report](#)

It's sure not looking like an early season at this point. Night temperatures in the Willamette Valley are staying in the thirties (1-4 C). Blueberry and caneberry buds are swelling but with the soil staying relatively cold, there isn't a big push.

But this late February-March period presents our berry crops with some specific risks related to plant development and weather extremes. 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.

One heads up for caneberry growers in the south—last year saw an upswing in reports of damage from raspberry crown moth. If you've had problems with this pest, March is the time to get on top of it with a soil drench.

A couple of other reminders:

- 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, 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](#)

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 (Saturday, 2/22)

I checked quite a few buds in blues and raspberries this week and can see little winter injury so far.

Everything's awake now so we don't need any extreme weather, or there could be injury. Currently (Saturday 22nd) snowing and on the freezing mark but not an issue. Actually, it would be good to remain cool and have a slow entry into the growing season after last year's non-winter.

- **Blueberries:** Drapers, Dukes, Reka and Bluecrop are all exhibiting very swollen terminal buds (2-3 buds back). Drapers pushing hard here in BC as well.
- **Raspberries:** Chemainus raspberries showing some green tip on the terminal buds. Meekers are pretty tight.

Northern Washington, Whatcom County (Thursday, 2/20)

Hope we don't have any more real more cold or we could have damage on blueberries given their stage of development.

- **Blueberries:** Looks like we dodged the bullet during the last cold snap. Draper are pushing hard. Better we're wet now than later.
- **Strawberries:** Albions definitely have some winter damage. Hood and Totem look OK even though they look toasted from the top.

Western Oregon, Willamette Valley (Monday, 2/24)

Wet, wet, wet....with a lot of snow accumulation in the mountains. That's not bad for right now but I sure don't want another two weeks of it. Saw the first blooming daffodils and prunus type trees this week so something must be stirring.

- **All Berries:** For me, Pseudomonas and winter moth checks in blueberries are coming up as well as checking for winter injury. I'm hearing rumbles about possible damage to some Albion strawberries as well as Marion blackberries and blues (esp. Legacy). Most reported damage so far, seems restricted to the area south of Salem which got the below zero temps in mid December.
- **Blackberries:** I'm continuing to cut buds and canes in blackberries looking for winter damage. Nothing obvious yet, although I believe there has to be some from the December cold.

Blackberry bud development comparison 2014 & 2013



Black Diamond blackberries, 2/21/14, Willamette Valley



Black Diamond blackberries, 2/19/13, Willamette Valley

Corrections to 'Insecticides for SWD Chart' posted last week

From Joe DeFrancesco: "I just found an error in the SWD Blueberry Chart that I sent you a couple of weeks ago.

- **To be corrected:** MRL for acetamiprid in EU/UK should be 2.0 ppm.
- **To be corrected:** MRL for Spinetoram in Korea and Taiwan should be 0.2 ppm.
- [Click here](#) for the entire list with the corrected values (Correct version is dated 2/24/14)

Grower resources

Irrigation

- **New Meeting Posting: March 14** —WSU Whatcom Extension Drip Irrigation Workshop ~ 10 - 2:30, at WaterTec, 177 Birch Bay Road, Lynden. [Click here](#) for information. [Click here](#) to register.
- [Is it time to finally take the plunge into drip irrigation?](#) (2/20, MSU Extension)
- [Irrigation 'Consumer Bill of Rights'](#) This two page pdf outlines the questions to be asked when 'acquiring' an irrigation system (both regular and drip) was developed by the Irrigation Training & Research Center & has been adopted by the Irrigation Dealers Assn of California.
- [How does irrigation influence the presence and severity of diseases?](#) (2/21, MSU Extension)
- **March 14** — Korea Export Market Registration Deadline for OR Blueberries. [Click here](#) for more information.
- [Managing SWD in high tunnel raspberries](#) (2/6, Growing Produce)
- [New USDA/OSU crop sprayer reduces drift and input use](#) (2/3, Growing Produce)
- [The Albion strawberry: Everbearing June through October](#) (Video) About Unger Farms in Hillsboro, Oregon, growing fresh market strawberries.

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

Variety development



Left to right: Meeker red raspberry, Black Diamond blackberry, Sweet Bliss strawberry, Draper blueberry

Newly Updated Berry Crop Cultivar Publications from OSU

Thanks to Chad Finn, Pat Moore, and Bernadine Strik for all the work they've done to get these essential publications updated.

- [Blueberry Cultivars for the Pacific Northwest](#) (13 page pdf) Revised February, 2014
- [Raspberry Cultivars for the Pacific Northwest](#) (11 page pdf) Revised February, 2014
- [Blackberry Cultivars for Oregon](#) (10 page pdf) Revised January, 2014
- [Strawberry Cultivars for Western Oregon and Washington](#) (8 page pdf) Revised February, 2014
- [Raspberry Variety Choices for Michigan](#) If you live in a colder climate zone you might be interested in this new factsheet from Michigan State Extension.

Grower survey for berry pollination research—Your input needed!

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.

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)

Classifieds

Peerbolt Crop Management field services for 2014

We're planning our field season and beginning scout hiring. Anyone who might be interested in contracting for field services this coming season and didn't work with us in 2013, please contact us soon. Once the scouts are hired and 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 every other week field monitoring for pests and diseases. Field specific reports with recommendations are emailed and saved online for quick and 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 and 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.

Usual March Pest Management

In most years activities involving the management of the following pests happens during March. They're associated with the warming temperatures and renewed plant growth.

Insects/Mites

- [Raspberry Crown Borer](#) **caneberries:** If you've had borer problems in the past, March is the time to drench for crown borer management in caneberries.
- [Strawberry Crown Moth](#) **southern caneberries:** In Oregon and Southwest Washington, this borer looks to do as much, if not more, damage in caneberries as the Raspberry Crown Borer. The treatment is the same as for RCB- a spring (or fall) insecticide drench.
- [Clay Colored Weevils](#) **southern strawberries:** This early emerging species is usually just considered a pest of raspberries in northern growing areas where it feeds on newly emerging shoots and buds. But in the last few years emerged adult Clay Colored Weevils have been recovered from SW Washington southern strawberry fields and blueberry fields.
- [Redberry Mite](#) **evergreen blackberries:** Dormant sprays of lime/sulfur or elemental sulfur for Blackberry Rust and Redberry Mite are recommended in March.

Diseases

- [Phytophthora Root Rot](#) **raspberries:** March is the time to use a fungicide drench in raspberries. Warm, saturated soils are the conditions that favor this organism, allowing it to spread quickly.

- [Blackberry Rust \(Phragmidium Rust\) Evergreen blackberries](#): Dormant spray of lime/sulfur or elemental sulfur for Blackberry Rust and Redberry Mites is recommended in March to prevent later problems.
- [Cane Blight raspberries](#): A good time to spot symptoms of cane blight is as the buds break. Infected canes will show either no bud break if the cane has been girdled or one-sided bud break if the infection is on one side. Scrape canes to look for rust colored streaks usually coming up from machine harvester scars. There is no treatment for cane blight once it's present, only prevention. The time to prevent next year's canes from getting infected is to apply an appropriate fungicide immediately after harvest when fresh wounds normally become infected.
- [Purple Blotch blackberries](#): Check for cane lesions that are easy to see as the weather warms but the foliage has not yet emerged. It's a good time to assess disease level.

Industry news/resources

Newsletters/ Berry reports

- [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: 2/20—Giant Lygus Bug Vacuum** 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 caneberry buds** Reports on issues in blackberries and raspberries from the Southeast.

Water/Climate

- [El Nino threatens to return, hit global food production](#) (2/21, Reuters)

California

- [Warming Valley: Scientists, farmers fight climate change with research & policy](#) (2/21, The Californian)
- [No Federal water for most California irrigators](#) (2/21, Capital Press)
- [Governor plans \\$68 million for California drought](#) (2/20, Capital Press)
- [Central Valley Project water allocation: 0 percent for growers this year](#) (2/21, Western Farm Press)

Technology/equipment

- [2014 Precision Ag product review](#) (1/28, Precision Ag)
- [It'sFresh! Relocates, pushes ethylene-cutting products](#) (2/19, The Packer)

Immigration/Farm Labor

- [Number of H-2A workers may grow in Oregon](#) (2/20, Capital Press)

Politics & Ag

- Oregon: [Ag bills move through Oregon legislature](#) (2/18, Capital Press)
- Oregon: [Oregon legislature passes bill to protect bees](#) (2/24, Capital Press)

Regulatory Agencies

- [FDA agrees to deadlines on food safety overhaul](#) (2/20, The Hill)
- [EPA proposes new pesticide rules](#) (2/20, Fresh Fruit Portal)
- [Farmworker advocates expect more of EPA pesticide standards](#) (2/25, Fresh Fruit Portal)

Breeding/Varieties/Intellectual Property

- Spain: [New Adelita raspberry taking markets by storm](#) (2/24, Fresh Plaza)
- Australia: [US legal dispute could threaten AU strawberry supply](#) (2/21, Fresh Plaza)

- Europe: [Elegance, Fenella strawberries gaining market share across Europe](#) (2/20, Fresh Plaza)

North America

- Maine: [Maine wild blueberry industry may benefit from farm bill pilot program](#) (2/25, Daily News)
- U.S.: [Imports to account for half of U.S. fruits by 2023](#) (2/19, The Packer)
- Florida: [Weather affects Florida strawberry production](#) (2/20, Fresh Plaza)
- Florida: [Hopes high for Florida blueberry crop](#) (2/21, Growing Produce)

International

(FFP=Fresh Fruit Portal)

- Mexico: [Family Tree Farms sees boost in Mexican blueberry volume](#) (2/19, The Packer)
- Poland: [New investments bring growth to Polish blueberries](#) (2/20, FFP)
- Chile/Turkey: [Chilean blueberry industry launches first promotions in Turkey](#) (2/21, FFP)
- Chile: [Chilean blueberry harvest season in final harvest phase](#) (2/22, FFP)
- Chile: [Blueberry exports to Europe and Asia increased](#) (2/19, Fresh Plaza)
- Norway: [Berries, the consumer purchase of the future](#) (2/24, Fresh Plaza)

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



Pseudomonas syringae (bacterial canker) symptoms in blueberries

Crop Work/Pest Management Activities

Week 9

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 (and 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.
 - [Click here](#) for a *PCM Research Update on bacterial blight first posted on 1/3/13*.
- **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.

Food Safety Meetings

Washington Blueberry and Red Raspberry Commissions

To attend any of these, you need to RSVP by emailing jpeterston@centurytel.net or calling 509-266-4300 three 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 Raspberry & Blackberry 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
- **New: March 21** — FOOD for Lane County, Eugene
- **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
- **New: April 16** — OSU Seafood Research & Education Center in Astoria
- **April 23** — Unger Farm Store, Cornelius
- **April 25** — Santo Community Center, Medford

Event calendar

- **New Posting: February 26** — **WBC and WRRRC Food Safety Training & Labor Update** Lynden, NW WA Fairgrounds, Rotary Building, 1775 Front Street. 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](#).
- **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 & Labor Update**. 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 & Labor Update**. 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.

- **New Posting: March 13** — eXtension Webinar on Organic Blackberry Production Research ~ 11 am. Bernadine Strik & Dave Bryla presenting. [Click here](#) for details and registration information.
- **New Posting: March 14** — Korea Export Market Registration Deadline for OR Blueberries. [Click here](#) for more information.
- **New Posting: March 14** — WSU Whatcom Extension Drip Irrigation Workshop ~ 10 - 2:30, at WaterTec, 177 Birch Bay Road, Lynden. [Click here](#) for information. [Click here](#) to register.
- **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
- **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](mailto: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](mailto: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.
- **New Posting: May 11-13** — International Raspberry Organization ~ Chuzhou, China. [Contact Henry Bierlink](#) for more information.

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

Archived Small Fruit Updates

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

[08-SFU02-18-14](#) [06-SFU02-06-14](#) [04-SFU01-21-14](#)

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