

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.

March 4, 2014

Week 10

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- [Federal Department of Labor asks judge to overturn 'hot goods' ruling](#) (3/4, Capital Press)
- [Cal Giant forecasts record blueberry crop](#) (3/4, Fresh Fruit Portal)
- [Dr Chad Finn, USDA small fruit plant breeder](#) (January 2014, Journal of the American Pomological Society) "Since taking over this program he has developed what is probably the most diverse berry breeding program in the world..." Thanks, Chad. But what have you done for us lately?

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

British Columbia Berry Grower Magazine

(Spring Issue)

- The Pacific Berry Resource Centre's expansion at the University of the Fraser Valley.
- The BC Blueberry Council's program for responding to complaints regarding bird scare noise makers.
- Progress on Food Safety Certification.
- Update on opening global markets for B.C. blueberries.

Editor Comments

Over the last two weeks of running this pollinator survey request in the SFU, we've only gotten 43 responses.

- This will (probably...) be the final request.
- Trust me, this survey will help us get the pollinator research we need.
- Plus, if you take it before March 10th, you can enter a raffle to win an iPad!
- I'm starting to feel like a Public TV station...growers--please take this survey if you haven't yet.

Please?

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](#)

Here it is on the next page----

Grower survey for berry pollination research— Your input still needed!—3rd posting

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.



SW Washington—soggy 2/27/14

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, 2/27)

This time last week I was mentioning that it was just beginning to snow a little but no big deal. Three days later it hadn't stopped till Monday (24th) evening. We ended up with a foot or better of snow in the Abbotsford -Chilliwack area and even substantial amounts in balmy Richmond and Vancouver. It's all but gone now. Temperatures never got much more than -2 to -4C (25-28F) in the evenings so not a real issue for plants. Just that field work came to a stop except for those with snowshoes (which most Canadians are issued with at birth as well as hockey sticks which most of you south of the line are probably well aware of now after the Olympics).

- **Blueberries & Raspberries:** Blues and raspberries are holding for now. Just trying to get pruning done. We're probably 10 days or so away from some serious spraying depending on the weather.
- **Monday, 3/3 Update:** Saturday & Sunday (March 1,2) the temperatures dropped again to freezing (28-32 F) and over Sunday we had about 6-8 inches of snow in Abbotsford-Chilliwack. Hopefully this is winter's last gasp. Raining now but a lot of snow to melt.

Northern Washington, Whatcom County (Thursday, 2/27)

As soon as we get warm weather, things will move along pretty quick. Good for the snow pack, as we have gained a lot of ground in the last number of days. Looking at sunshine out the window right now, makes me want to go farm something!! Even if it's wrong!!

- **Blueberries:** Still do not find any damage to blueberries from the cold snap. This week, the snow did not hurt us, I'm sure. It did keep the workers out of the field, but we finished pruning last week. We just needed to transplant a few holes in field.

Northern Washington, Skagit County (Friday, 2/28)

Very wet here from last weekend's snow melt and following rains. Lot of trees down along with a few cold frame greenhouses from Burlington North, little snow in Mt Vernon, almost none at Fir Island. Hit 60 deg F in Skagit Valley today. Scary to be this warm this early.....

- **Blueberries:** Blueberry buds pushing hard. No mummyberry apothecia yet but some Indar starting to go on where growers can get into wet fields.

- **Blueberries & Raspberries:** Casoron being spread and sprayed under blues and raspberries, some targeting quackgrass with Matrix.
- **Strawberries:** Some Spartan and Simazine going on strawberries during this break between weather events. Crowns look OK inside but daughter plants that froze in December are toast for the most part.

Blueberry Disease Alert

Frost or cold damage may increase susceptibility of blueberry shoots to infection.

Mummyberry (blueberries) In the Willamette Valley we're very close to fields being vulnerable to infections. Be ready with a management program by the time fields at risk reach 'green tip stage'. That's when new infections can begin.

- **So, what is "green tip stage"?** [Click here](#) for a chart from Michigan State of the various stages of blueberry growth development.
- [Mummyberry primer from MSU](#)
- **Some critical points:**
 - The optimum temperature for spore release and infection is 50 to 57°F (10 to 14°C). Figure on when temperatures go over 45F in our area you're into the danger zone.
 - At least 12 hours of wetness is required for infection.

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)

Agricultural Labor

Information links from Karen Clark, U.S. Department of Labor

At the ORBC Caneberry grower meeting in Woodburn last Wednesday, Karen (A U.S. Department of Labor Community Outreach & Resource Planning Specialist) had a presentation. There were some requests for follow up information. Here's Karen's response and the links:

- **From Karen:** "Thanks so much for having us at your event. I wanted to follow up on some transportation items, as the topic drew a number of questions. Would you be so kind as to forward these links on to the participants? I also believe that some folks wanted additional information regarding migrant housing, which I've provided in the second link group."
- **DOL factsheets on specific topics**
 - [Hours Worked Under the Fair Labor Standards Act \(FLSA\)](#) (Fact Sheet #22)
 - [Joint Employment and Independent Contractors Under the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act](#) (Fact Sheet #35)
 - [Transportation under the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act](#) (Fact Sheet #50)
- **DOL Migrant Housing information**
 - [Temporary Labor Camps—Department of Labor](#) (OSHA Information)
 - [Housing Form—Department of Labor](#) (Wage and Hour Division)

New Meeting Posting: March 18—Wage & Hour Compliance for Berry Growers ~ 10:30 – 3:00 at Papa Pete's Pizza. 109 S. 65th Avenue, Ridgefield, WA. Put on by Manny Lopez (American Business League), a former agent for the Federal Department of Labor, "Attendees will receive an in depth training of wage and hour

regulations and proper record keeping. They will learn how to prepare for and navigate a Department of Labor audit to minimize its effect on business.”

- \$300 per company/\$200 per individual.
- [Click here](#) for more information.
- RSVP to MLopez@americanbusinessleague.com or call 541-868-6371.

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Grower resources

- [Combat herbicide resistance by using strip cultivation for weed management](#) (2/25, MSU Extension)
- [Crop potential, herbicide use affected by pH](#) (2/21, Ag Professional)

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.

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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: 2/28—**
Quick tips on interpreting calcium results on soil analyses *Reports on recent insect and disease research and observations in California.*
- [Team Rubus](#) by Gina Fernandez, North Carolina State Small Fruit Specialist. **Recent entry: 2/25—**
Nurseries licensed to propagate ‘Nantahala’ red raspberry *Reports on issues in blackberries and raspberries from the Southeast.*
- [The North Carolina Blueberry Journal](#) by Bill Cline, North Carolina State Pathologist. **Recent entry: 2/22—**
Blueberry propagation structures *Resources for extension agents, growers & blueberry enthusiasts.*

Water/Climate

- [Washington snowpack reaching normal levels](#) (2/27, Capital Press)
California
- [‘Rains won’t be enough’ to overturn Calif. drought](#) (2/28, Ag Professional)
- [Storms bring relief to parched California](#) (2/27, Capital Press)
- [California’s wet February encourages farmers](#) (2/28, Capital Press)

Technology/equipment

- [New broadcast spray-hoods offer drift reduction](#) (2/28, Ag Professional)

Pollination

- [Bees finishing almond bloom, looking for other food](#) (3/4, Capital Press)

Marketing

- [‘Biggest Loser’ host visits blueberry council meeting](#) (2/28, The Packer) *The show’s host, Alison Sweeney, also hosts a blueberry blog on the USHBC website. [Click here](#) for the blog.*
- [USHBC Blueberry Blog](#) *This is another USHBC marketing blog.*
- [Let’s sell berries through the “lens of the consumer”, says Driscoll’s](#) (2/26, Fresh Fruit Portal)
- Florida & Georgia: [State berry promotions to focus on social media](#) (2/28, The Packer)

Politics & Ag

- Farm bill: [USDA secretary outlines farm bill details](#) (2/28, Western Farmer-Stockman)

Breeding/Varieties/Intellectual Property

- [Chile takes a deeper look at raspberry genetics](#) (2/7, Fresh Fruit Portal)

West

- [Rain pelts California strawberries](#) (3/4, The Packer)

North America

- Florida & Georgia: [Southeast blueberries expect normal deals](#) (2/28, The Packer)
- Maine: [Wild Blueberry Blog](#) (U of Maine Extension)
- New York: [Cornell fruit news and events blog](#) (Cornell U.)

International

(FFP=Fresh Fruit Portal)

- Chile: [Don’t let fumigation fool you, Chile still has plenty of organic blueberries](#) (2/26, FFP)
- Chile: [Opinion: don’t give up on Chilean blueberries yet](#) (2/26, FFP)
- Chile: [Chilean blueberries recorded a lower volume and a higher price](#) (2/26, Fresh Plaza)
- Europe: [Interesting opportunities for U.S. produce industry in Europe](#) (2/24, FFP)
- Opinion: [Explaining the largest spike in blueberry prices in ten years](#) (2/26, FFP)

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Pseudomonas syringae (bacterial canker) symptoms in blueberries

Crop Work/Pest Management Activities

Week 10

All crops

- **Weed management.**
- **Scout for and plan for Voles: *Baits cannot be used after bud break.*** 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

- **Mummyberry (blueberries)** Treat for mummyberry as needed.
- Scout for bud damage & determine cause.
- Dormant oil can be applied for scale and winter moth egg control before bud break.
- Can apply Bacterial Blight (*Pseudomonas*) management materials.
- **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:** A dormant oil or Esteem (pyriproxyfen) can be used while blueberries are dormant.

Blackberries

- Scout for [purple blotch](#) lesions in Marion berries to assess field disease levels for later treatments.
- Can apply lime sulfur for [redberry mite](#) and/or disease management.

Raspberries

- Can apply lime sulfur for disease management.
- Scout for [cane blight](#) symptoms as buds break.

Strawberries

- As plants start to grow, watch for weak growing areas and check rots for weevil larvae, root rot and/or cold damage.

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 blackberry puree tasting 2-26-14, Woodburn, OR

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
- **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

- **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

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- **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](#).
 - **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.
 - **March 13 — eXtension Webinar on Organic Blackberry Production Research** ~ 11 am. Bernadine Strik & Dave Bryla presenting. [Click here](#) for details and registration information.
 - **March 14 — Korea Export Market Registration Deadline for OR Blueberries.** [Click here](#) for more information.
 - **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
 - **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
 - **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.

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

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Archived Small Fruit Updates

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

[09-SFU02-25-14](#) [08-SFU02-18-14](#) [06-SFU02-06-14](#)

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