

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 1, 2014

Week 14

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- **Chile: [Hortifrut reports volume and revenue growth](#)**
(3/31, Fresh Fruit Portal)
 - **[Records suggest scant evidence in 'Hot Goods' cases](#)**
(3/27, Capital Press)
 - **[Food safety workshops focus on the farm](#)**
(3/25, Capital Press)
- [The Weather Cafe](#) by Rufus La Lone [Small Fruit Cold Storage report](#)

The first week in April in the Willamette valley.

Our field scouts are trained and getting field routines and monitoring traps set up. Blueberry bloom is just barely starting. Hives are appearing in a few fields. Raspberry and blackberry fields are greening up (or, in the case of some cold damaged fields—not greening up), strawberries are beginning to send up flower trusses.

...and, on the other side, mummyberry apothecia are dispersing spores, shock virus symptoms are showing up, rust in raspberries has 'broken dormancy' (entered the spermatogonia stage), and those water mold (phytophthora) spores are swimming around looking for roots to infect.

Just another season in paradise.

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 (Monday, 3/31)

- **Blueberries** A very difficult past week here with wet conditions most days. Fields are tough to get around in with rain and wind, not a lot was getting done. A bit of a break now (Mar 31) with sun for the next two days. So we'll try to get the second mummyberry sprays on before the next wet front moves in on Thursday. Could start some early fertilization (Low or no N) on the blues later in the week or early next week.
- **Raspberries:** Raspberries are moving now and we could start shoot burning this week or early next week. Everything hinges on how mother nature treats us the next little while.
- **Spotted wing drosophila:** Had a great SWD symposium today at BC Ministry of Ag offices. Good presentations and dialogue with attendees and presenters. I think we all feel a lot more confident dealing with this pest and minimizing fruit quality impacts. Lots more to learn though. But we're a long way from where we were just a few short years ago.

Northern Washington, Whatcom County (Monday, 3/31)

- **Raspberries:** Bud development is slow right now. The early pushing varieties like Malahat and Rudi are greening up. The newly released variety, Cascade Harvest, surprised me by being as far along as it is. Buds on it break early even though harvest timing is close to Meeker. Some primocane burning is starting.



Cascade Harvest raspberry, Lynden, 3-31-14. This newly released variety comes out very early compared to Meeker.

Western Oregon, Willamette Valley

- **Blueberries** (Friday, 3/28): The cold weather has slowed down bud development. Some fields are ahead of those illustrated below with some bloom showing in Earlyblue, Legacy, Patriot and Duke. Some hives are in. Some guys are going with a Pristine application this week to cover both mummyberry and botrytis.

Blueberry floral bud development—Western Willamette Valley

Top -- 3/28/14. Bottom -- 3/29/13

Same fields (Photos by Tom Peerbolt)



Patriot

Duke

Draper

Liberty

Aurora



Patriot

Duke

Draper

Liberty

Western Oregon, Willamette Valley (Tuesday, 4/1)

- **Blackberries:** Not much new from last week, too wet to get much of anything done. Continuing to evaluate the amount of cold damage in the Marions. It is too early to make any hard and fast predictions but I am definitely worried. On the bright side Black Diamond and Columbia Star continue to look good. Evergreens also.

Black Diamond blackberry bud development. Left -- 3/31/14. Right—4/1/13

Same field, different location (Photos by Bill Dinger)



Comments on cold damage in Marionberry blackberries

These comments were a late edition to last week's Update so they're reposted this week for those of you who might have missed them. TP)

- **Bernadine Strik, OSU Berry Horticulturist (3/25):** I've seen some damage in Marion fields. In my opinion, the cold temperatures in early December came before the berry plants were fully dormant; that's why we are seeing some damage at temperatures we might otherwise not expect to see damage. Growers of Marion might see more damage in August trained EY, especially if canes were at all kinked during training. Also, in vigorously growing AY fields (coming from an off year) we are seeing a bit of damage, likely because plants were even later to go dormant (as compared to EY fields). Also, we are noticing some damage on the lower part of canes, particularly in fields where there was snow and on the SW side of the plants (typical SW injury). In these damaged areas, canes might be split and now may have evidence of cane disease. Growers should scout for cane and leaf rust and purple blotch. Cane sprays will be especially important this spring.
- **Joe DeFrancesco, OSU (3/25):** Damage to Marions in Oregon will be site-specific. I have a small planting of Marions on a research farm just outside of Corvallis, and the canes are dead as a doornail. Temperatures were down to 5F (-15C) for a few days early December. This was a healthy, vigorous AY field going into the winter and I'll likely need to cut them down to the ground. However, my Marion planting at the North Willamette Research & Extension Center near Aurora in the northern part of the Valley looks good, with very little damage showing at this time.

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Insect & disease alerts

Raspberry & Blueberry Disease Alert

Phytophthora Root Rot: As soils warm and saturate, conditions are ideal for the spores of Phytophthora to spread from plant to plant. All precautions should be taken to inhibit the disease in fields at risk with soil drenches of Ridomil and doing whatever you can to keep roots out of the saturated soil zone.

Raspberry & Blackberry Insect Alert

Raspberry Crown Borer If you've had issues or it's been a few years since you've treated, now is the time to consider getting an insecticide crown drench on.

Blueberry Disease Alert

Mummyberry (blueberries)- Time to be in prevention mode! In fields with a history of mummyberry and at green tip stage, now's the time to be implementing your management program and keep it going as consistently as possible all the way through the end of bloom.

- 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](#)



Mummyberry apothecia releasing spores.
(Photos taken 3/28/14, Willamette Valley)

Disease Symptoms Appearing

Shock virus – southern blueberries.

- Symptoms are just becoming visible in many Oregon fields.
- 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.



Blueberry Shock virus symptoms.
(3/28/14, Willamette Valley)

Grower Resources

- [Blackberry production: Tips learned from an ongoing organic research study](#) (3/25, eXtension posted webinar & power point) Presented by Bernadine Strik, Dave Bryla & Louis Valenzuela. This has a lot of valuable information for all growers not just organic.
- [New pest management choices for small fruit growers](#) (3/27, WSU News) Story on Dr. Tanigoshi's work and recommendations on SWD management.
 - [Click here](#) for copy of March 15th Whatcom Ag Monthly magazine with a more complete article on the WSU spotted wing drosophila research results.

Industry news/resources

Newsletters/ berry reports

- [Washington Blueberry Commission Newsletter](#) (3/27)
- [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.

- [The Source](#) (3/31) Market reports from *The Produce News*.

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: 3/28—**
- **Weed Management in Strawberry Meeting Planned for April 24** *Reports on recent insect and disease research and observations in California.*
- [Team Rubus](#) by Gina Fernandez, North Carolina State Small Fruit Specialist. *Reports on issues in blackberries and raspberries from the Southeast.*

Climate/Water

- [EPA rule would clarify limits of water oversight; Provide ag exemptions](#) (3/26, Western Farmer-Stockman)
- [Drought forcing California farmers to leave as much as 800,000 acres unplanted](#) (3/20, Growing Produce)
- [El Nino not likely to impact Midwest crops this summer](#) (3/27, Farm Futures)

Marketing/Business

- [Larger strawberry clamshells gain popularity](#) (3/25, The Packer)

Technology/Equipment

- [Wilbur-Ellis' AgVerdict upgrade focused on data-driven decision making](#) (3/28, Precision Ag)

West

- California: [California strawberry business updates](#) (3/28, The Packer)
- California: [Nagata Bros. blueberries earn rigorous residue free certification](#) (3/26, Digital Journal)

North America

- [Report: American families eating more imported produce](#) (3/24, Fruit Grower News)

International

(FFP=Fresh Fruit Portal)

- Ukraine: [Berries of Ukraine—2014; Frozen produce & fresh market](#) (3/28, Fresh Plaza)

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Nutrient Management Guides

We're getting into a traditional time for applying fertilizer. Many growers still apply the first blueberry application just before the buds break. Research has shown that the plant takes up very little nitrogen before late April. Recommended timing for split applications in the Willamette Valley is 1/3 in late April, 1/3 in mid-May and 1/3 in mid-June.

- [Click here](#) For OSU's "Nutrient Management in Blueberries" (16 page pdf).
- [Click here](#) For OSU's "Nutrient Management Guide—Caneberries"



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)



Sulfur being applied to Marionberry blackberries, 3/31/14 (Photo by Bill Dinger)

Crop work/pest management activities

Week 14

All crops

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

Blueberries

- **Treat for [Mummyberry](#) as needed.** (See Alert at top of newsletter) *You can scout for sprouting mummyberries on the ground but they can be very difficult to find. Base treatment decisions on plant stage, environmental conditions and the past mummyberry history of the field and surrounding fields.*
- **Scout for [Pseudomonas \(Bacterial Blight\)](#)** Water-soaked lesions in some fields that then develop into reddish brown to black cankers or dead buds.
 - [Click here](#) for a PCM Research Update on bacterial blight first posted on 1/3/13.
- 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.
- Make preparations for bringing in bees around 10% bloom.
- **[Winter Moth/ Bruce Span Worm](#) blueberries:** *Scouting for winter moth larvae should start as soon as the buds start swelling. 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.

Blackberries

- Scout for [Purple Blotch](#) lesions in Marion berries to assess field disease levels for later treatments.

- Can apply lime sulfur for [Redberry Mites](#) and/or disease management.
- Can drench for [crown borer](#) management.

Evergreen Blackberries

- Can apply lime/sulfur for [blackberry rust](#).

Raspberries

- Burn back primocanes as needed.
- (northern areas) Scout for [Clay Colored Weevil](#) feeding and treat as needed.
- Scout for mites.
- Can still apply Ridomil for [Phytophthora root rot](#) management.
- Can still drench for [crown borer](#) management.

Strawberries

- Can apply phosphite material.
- Watch for weak growing areas and check rots for [weevil larvae](#), [root rot](#) and/or cold damage.

Food safety meetings

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

- **April 3** — Fairview Grange, Tillamook
- **April 4** — Lincoln City Cultural Center, Lincoln City
- **April 16** — OSU Seafood Research & Education Center in Astoria
- **April 23** — Unger Farm Store, Cornelius
- **April 25** — Santo Community Center, Medford

Event calendar

- **April 2-3** — **Oregon Precision Farming Expo** ~ Evergreen Aviation and Space Museum, McMinnville, OR. [Click here](#) for information and tickets. *Unmanned systems, robotics, ag drones, data systems, automation, remote sensing, oh boy!*
- **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.
- **New Posting: April 8** — **Eastern Washington Blueberry Growers: Meet the New WSU Small Fruit Horticulturist** ~ 10 am at the WSU IAREC station near Prosser The WA Blueberry Commission is hosting a meeting with Lisa Wasko DeVetter, the new WSU Small Fruit Horticulturist. For more information, contact the [WBC office](#) (509) 266-4300.
- **April 9** — **Washington Red Raspberry Commission** ~ **Board meeting in Puyallup has been changed to a teleconference**. Begins at 10 am and will be concluded by 11:30 am. [Contact Henry Bierlink](#) for phone number access and more information.
- **New Posting: April 16** — **Washington Blueberry Commission** ~ 11:00 am at the Steakhouse 9 Restaurant, 115 East Homestead Blvd, Lynden, WA. For more information, contact the [WBC office](#) (509)266-4300.
- **April 17** — **Korea Fresh Shippers Meeting** ~ 10am, Salem, OR, meeting location TBA. Due to changes in record keeping this meeting is considered mandatory for PCAs, please notify those who will be monitoring your production fields. The mandatory nature of this meeting will help with education documentation for the Korean inspector who will be here again this summer. [Email Bryan Ostland](#) for more information or call 503-364-2944.
- **April 25**— **Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission** ~ Budget hearing and Committee meetings. Starts at 5pm. Call 541-758-4043 or [Email](#) Philip Gutt 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.
- **May 29 — National Processed Raspberry Council**, SeaTac Marriott, Seattle, WA. For more information, call Tom Krugman at 360-354-0948. [Click here](#) for the Council's website.
- **June 11 — OSU Strawberry Open House** ~ 1:00-4:30pm North [Willamette Research and Extension Center](#) (NWREC) *A focus on the breeding program & research for commercial growers. Details TBA.*
- **July 9 — OSU Caneberry Field Day** ~ 1:00-5:00pm [North Willamette Research and Extension Center](#) (NWREC) *A focus on the breeding program & research on conventional and organic production systems for commercial growers. Details TBA.*
- **July 16 — OSU Blueberry Field Day** ~ 1:00 – 5:00pm [North Willamette Research and Extension Center](#) (NWREC) *A focus on the breeding program & research on conventional and organic production systems for commercial growers. Details TBA.*

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Archived Small Fruit Updates

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

[13-SFU03-25-14](#) [12-SFU03-18-14](#) [11-SFU03-11-14](#)