

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 15, 2014

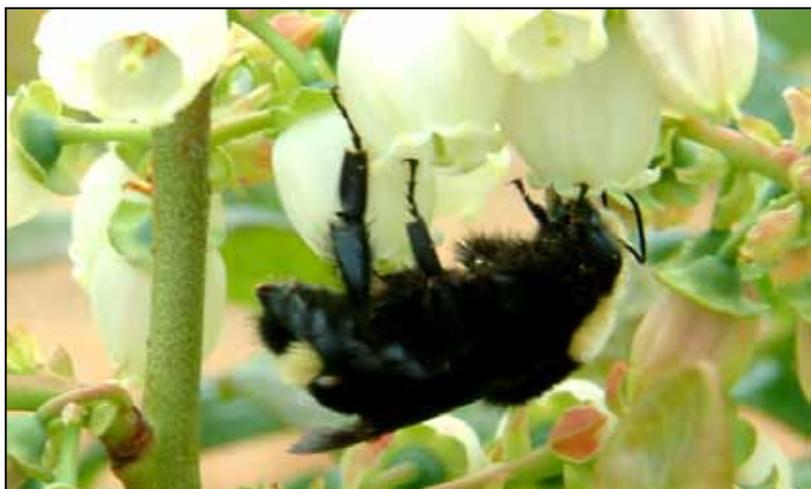
Week 16

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- **April 17 — Korea Fresh Shippers Meeting** ~ 10am, Roths IGA, West Salem, 1130 Wallace Rd., NW Salem. 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.
- **May 21-- [Workshop for machine harvesting fresh market blueberries](#)** 9 - 4, North Willamette Research and Extension Center, Aurora, OR. Click on the link above for registration and the agenda.

[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

Proceeding very well here, temps in your 70s, aka low 20s C in the Eastern reaches of the Fraser Valley, more like 13 C in the West reaches. Rain and cooler by Tuesday againHappy Easter everyone.

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](#)

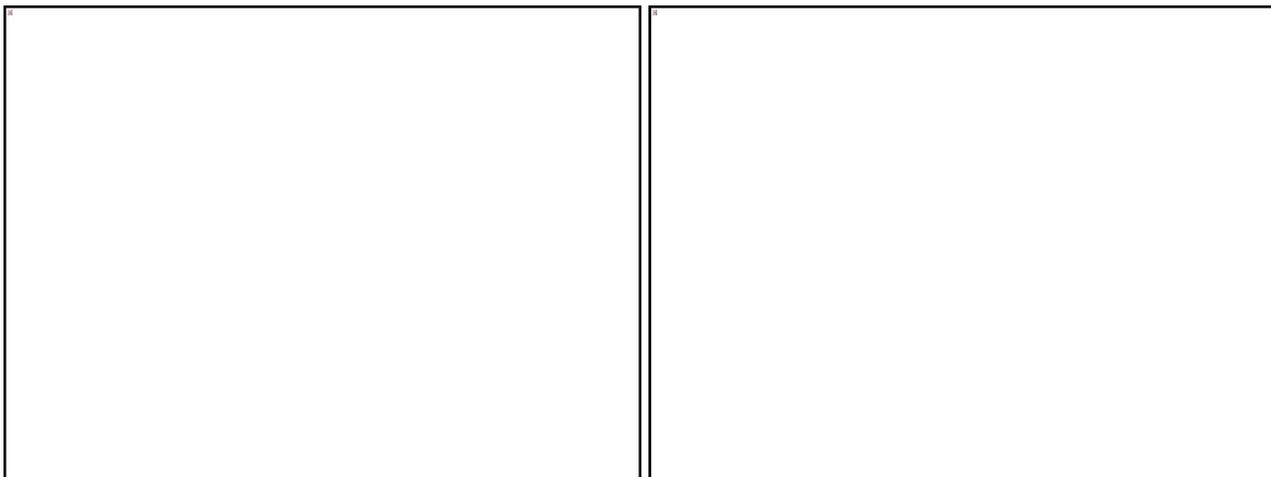
- **Blueberries:** (Sunday, 4/13) Nice to see the sunshine. Cool mornings. Light frost Thursday morning. One more day of dry weather and then rains are coming for 3-4 days. Maybe saving the sunshine for bloom time. Granular fertilizer starting to go on. Second mummyberry and span worm sprays on. Reka farthest along followed by Duke and then Bluecrop. Will be getting first fruit rot sprays on in about a week. Skipping pre-bloom aphid sprays as there seems to be a lot less aphids around with SWD spraying going on. Crop appears average to above depending on field. Some laterals with 2-3 fruit buds at end and leaf buds below. Would be heavy crop if they had all set.
- **Blueberries:** (Sunday, 4/13) Fine weather is really pushing blues along. Seems we're more in line with last year's development timeline than I would have thought at the beginning of the season. Dukes in Abbotsford moving into pink bud (some twiggy laterals at flower) and I would imagine will be at early bloom by the 25th. Early land east of Abbotsford (Sumas Prairie) will see bloom on Dukes by next weekend if warm weather continues as promised. Not seeing much winter related damage as floral and leaf development progresses. Increasing weevil activity is reported though. So control measures should be taken before bees get active in these plantings. Time to get bee guys on notice, bloom could move fast.
- **Blueberries:** (Sunday, 4/13) Blueberries proceeding very well, clusters opening up, zero bloom in all varieties thus far but ready to burst.
- **Raspberries:** (Sunday, 4/13) I'm seeing more and more raspberry winter damage, in Meeker especially. I was hoping that this would not be the case. But it's now evident that there is cane and bud damage. Considerable primary and secondary bud movement and damage to the loops and lower canes. Meekers are slow to develop from the loops down. From my perspective it appears more damage occurs in the fall tied plantings than in the spring pruned and tied fields. We'll get a better idea of losses when we see how these slow moving Meeker laterals develop. Lots of weevil activity in the raspberries now as well. And just so they don't feel too lonely, I'm finding some low levels of two spotted spider mites on expanded leaves mid-cane.
- **Raspberries:** (Sunday, 4/13) For raspberries, so far no major winter damage observed, but some secondary buds are breaking, so somewhere there is tissue damage.
- **Blackberries:** (Sunday, 4/13) The few blackberries we have are doing well so far. We had some material that is Southern adapted in full Arctic outflow winds with no snow cover and they are growing out full canes of laterals, amazing.
- **Strawberries:** (Sunday, 4/13) Strawberries are doing well. Some exposed areas have damage where the soil was wind eroded, otherwise green fields. Now I am keeping my fingers crossed for proper bloom conditions.

Northern Washington, Skagit County

- **Blueberries & raspberries:** (Friday, 4/12) *From Lisa Wasko DeVetter, WSU's new berry crops horticulturist:* "No cold damage in the blueberries showing up yet from the limited samples I've seen, which is good. I have seen several grower fields in the Lynden area and on Whidbey Island that have complete death far down on raspberry canes due to cold damage. Hopefully there is compensation, but it's a bit nebulous how compensation effects yields. Perhaps an opportunity for further research?"

Western Oregon, Willamette Valley

- **Blackberries:** (Monday, 4/14) Marionberry blackberry crop looks worse every day (*from winter cold damage*). Of the Marion fields I have seen less than 5% look like a normal crop and continue to see more fields being cut down, mainly EY (*Harvested every year*) but some AY (*Harvested alternate years which are usually more winter hardy-TP*). I think there would be more AY fields being cut down but then you have the dilemma of next year having too many acres to harvest with the machines you have. It is mostly Marions although I did hear about a Black Diamond field being cut down near Lebanon. No excuses for not getting field work done, perfect weather for April.



Marionberry blackberries on April 11, 2014. Left is from a protected area and the second one is the same field about 300 feet down the row. First picture is what I wish all the fields looked like, sadly the second one is more typical—Bill Dinger

- **Blueberries:** (Monday, 4/14) We've had a great weather week for fieldwork, pollination and just about everything else except sitting in the office—60-70 degrees, dry and sunny. Now we're cooling some with showers due to move in. Not many complaints in the blueberry world right now unless you've got a field showing heavy shock virus symptoms. It can get ugly—Liberty seems to be a favorite. Fertilizers, herbicides, bloom sprays, mummyberry applications, between row mowing—all are in full gear.

Blueberry floral bud development over the past week

Western Willamette Valley

Top – 4/11/14. Bottom – 4/4/14.

Patriot

Duke

Draper

Liberty

Aurora



Blueberry dieback symptoms

Note: *This last week I requested comments on possible blueberry winter damage. We often see a fair amount of dead buds & twigs from a lot of various causes in blues. But it seems like this year there have been more attributions of these typical symptoms to cold than usual. I'm trying to sort out just how much actual cold associated damage we've got.*

Blueberry winter damage comments from Tom Baumann, Berry Researcher & Consultant, British Columbia: Winter damage in blueberries? We have seen it over the years as multiple symptoms. Most every symptom has nothing at all to do with cold.

- Last year in particular we struggled from symptoms associated with the long warm, dry fall of 2012. This translated into a lack of laterals and lack of flowers per lateral during the 2013 season. It made for a significant drop of crop yield.
We completed an extensive replicated bud analysis trial with multiple locations throughout the Fraser Valley looking at fields of many varieties and ages. We counted reproductive buds as well as flowers per reproductive bud and are convinced that we are not having that same kind of lack of flowers this year.
- There are two very similar symptoms that we see:
 1. Laterals will not unfold, but rather we get a whorl of bracts and no flowers, to me an indicator of lack of time to convert from a vegetative bud to a reproductive bud. That "damage" likely happens in fall.
 2. Lack of full 10 to 12 flowers per lateral. Probably there are multiple reasons for this:
 - § Maybe the conversion to flowers was not completed. Maybe early fall frost.
 - § True cold damage--actual cold late in the season in March and April, with flowers at their most vulnerable and they will not be able to convert to fruit.
- We also see dead buds from disease, nothing to do with cold, except for that notorious rain in the coastal areas all winter.
- Actual plant death from cold--I have not seen ever in our BC growing regions. I had some Pink Lemonade out in the cold and they actually show cold cane damage and bud failure, but I'd expect that from that variety, which is only nice for home gardeners in our region.
- Cold induced damage--Blights and other diseases take advantage of injured tissue and a proliferation of these diseases is expected every time we have a late frost or early frost. Now I hope to hear back from the physiologists of you on my delightful theories...

Insect & disease alerts

Blueberry Disease vector management

Scorch virus – Areas with confirmed scorch virus present.

Vector (aphid) management

- 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 overwintering 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.

Blueberry Disease Alert -- Time to treat

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 on ground



Mummyberry—Second stage—about to show up in Southern blueberry fields. (photo by Caroline Teasdale)

Blueberry Disease Symptoms Appearing

Shock virus – 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.
(Photo by Caroline Teasdale)

Blackberry Disease Alert -- Time to treat

Downey Mildew boysenberries, Kotata blackberries (occasionally other blackberries): This is a systemic disease that only displays symptoms if environmental conditions are right in the spring. It can cause major losses due to misshapen berries. A distinctive red leaf pattern is also diagnostic of the disease. Phosphite applications in the spring are recommended to prevent outbreaks.

Classified

(2nd week running) **Job Opening for Agronomy and Data Management Assistant.** [Click here](#) for job description. Interested individuals should send resume to T.J. Hafner at tjhafner@agricare.com.

Industry news/resources

Newsletters/ berry reports

- [Rural Migration News](#) April Issue. Rural Migration News is produced with the support of the Rosenberg, Giannini and Farm Foundations. Excellent source for objective facts & figures on Ag labor and immigration dynamics.
- [Oregon Berry Commission News](#) Spring Issue.
- [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](#) (4/14) 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. 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.

Labor & Politics

- [Blueberry lies: Wall Street Journal spearheads disingenuous effort to keep exploiting farm workers](#) (3/30, Salon) Wow. The 'other side' of the Hot Goods issue. So many distortions and misunderstandings...

Climate/Water

- [El Nino more than 50% likely by summer: U.S. weather forecaster](#) (4/11, Reuters)
- Washington: [Snowpack, stream flows healthy in Washington](#) (4/4, Capital Press)
- Oregon: [Oregon's drought may affect crops](#) (4/10, Capital Press)
- California: [No more water for ag despite recent storms](#) (4/10, Capital Press)

Marketing/Business

- [In 15 years, food giants took over the organic business](#) (4/10, The Wall Street Journal)
- [Lori Hickey discusses Hurst's Berry Farm blueberry offerings](#) (4/11, Andknowyouknow)
- [Driscoll's concentrates on consumer experience at Global Berry Conference](#) (4/10, Fresh Plaza)

Health News

- [Could blueberries help Parkinson's disease?](#) (4/14, Medical News Today)

Technology/Equipment

- [Experts weigh regulation of ag drones](#) (4/8, Capital Press)

North America

- Michigan: [Snowy, cold winter hurts Michigan fruit](#) (4/10, The Packer)
- Prince Edward Island (PEI): [Blueberry growers celebrate booming industry](#) (4/10, Fresh Plaza)

International

(FFP=Fresh Fruit Portal)

- Peru: [Blueberry exports amount to 4.5 million dollars this year](#) (4/10, Fresh Plaza)



Crop work/pest management activities

Week 16

All crops

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

Blueberries

- [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.*
- [Azalea Bark Scale](#), **blueberries**. *This scale's telltale bright white egg sacs on the lower branches of infested plants are becoming more apparent in some southern blueberry fields.*
- Bring in bees around 10% bloom.
- Plan for/apply fungicides for fruit mold prevention starting at about 10% bloom.
- **Treat for [Mummyberry](#) as needed.** *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.
- **[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

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

Raspberries

- Burn back primocanes as needed.
- (northern areas) Scout for [Clay Colored Weevil](#) feeding and treat as needed.
- Scout for cane botrytis lesions.
- Scout for mites.

Strawberries

- Can apply phosphite material.
- (Southern strawberries) Can scout for [Strawberry Crown Moth](#) larvae.

- **Root Weevils, strawberries.** Larvae of [Black Vine](#), [Rough Strawberry](#), [Strawberry Root Weevils](#) are now being recovered from some strawberry fields.
- 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 16** — OSU Seafood Research & Education Center in Astoria
- **April 23** — Unger Farm Store, Cornelius
- **April 25** — Santo Community Center, Medford
- **April 30** — Mary's River Grange Hall, Philomath

Event calendar

- **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 Ostlund](#) for more information or call 503-364-2944.
- **April 25**— **Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission** ~ Budget hearing and Committee meetings. Starts at 4pm. [Click here](#) for the agenda. 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.
- **New Posting: May 21** — **Workshop for Machine Harvesting Fresh Market Blueberries** ~ 9-4pm , [North Willamette Research and Extension Center](#). [Click here](#) for registration & agenda.
- **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** ~ 1:00-4:30 pm 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** ~ 1:00-5:00 pm [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](#).)

[15-SFU04-08-14](#) [14-SFU04-01-14](#) [13-SFU03-25-14](#)