

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.

September 4, 2014

Week 36

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['U.S. blueberry farming practices need to evolve', says Giant Blueberry Farms](#) (9/1, Fresh Fruit Portal)

[Sweet ending for a successful British Columbian blueberry season](#) (8/29, Fresh Fruit Portal)

The Weather Cafe by Rufus La Lone Small Fruit Cold Storage report

Week 36--It's time for us to go to an every other week schedule with the Small Fruit Update. Thanks to all of you who have contributed information this season and thanks to all the commodity commissions and councils who support this publication financially.

A few points:

- As always any feedback on any subject from you is valued. [Click here](#) to email us or call the office at 503-289-7287.
- We're having a **Willamette Valley Grower/Fieldman Meeting on Thursday, September 18 8 am North Willamette Research and Extension station, Aurora.** Topic: Season review/market conditions. For more information call (503-289-7287) or [email](#) [Peerbolt Crop Management](#)
- Can't end without one more SWD Alert. If you've got fruit in the field—stay with the program!

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](#)

Tom Peerbolt, SFU Editor



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

- **Blueberries:** (Tuesday, 9/2) Second pick Elliott is starting in some areas while others trying to finish up first. Precipitation last few days and expected through Tuesday, hopefully drying up Wednesday. There has been some split fruit showing up but overall quality has been good with heat helping to sweeten the fruit. Great conditions for SWD but not for growers. It is very challenging right now. Even growers on a regular schedule in Bluecrop, sometimes making 2 applications over 7-8 days between harvests are losing their fields to it. Same growers never had a problem when we had Ripcord registered even on years with higher pressure. Blackberries everywhere infested. Some sampling was done of blackberries and out of 25 berries there was a minimum of 10 larvae found.
I personally wouldn't be planting anything that isn't done by the second pick of Bluecrop time. At least not until there is some kind of a solution for this pest.
- **Blueberries:** (Monday, 9/1) Most Elliotts are into the second pick with some even into third go at it. As mentioned, SWD a real issue now and we do miss Cypermethrin as part of an effective rotational control program. Pick and spray intervals really have to be short as possible. Anyone still picking first pick will be having big issues with infestations. Picking labor scarcity factors in as the biggest issue with slow picks

Northern Washington, Whatcom County

- **Blueberries:** (Tuesday, 9/2) All but finished in Whatcom. Some second and third pick Elliott yet to go. Labor issues have forced many to be late in picking fruit and have caused soft Liberty and Elliott fruit from the start. Weather had impact as well, but lateness due to labor was a large factor. Labor continues to be a forefront topic with growers. Liberty has been mixed size even on first pick and second pick is like Rubel size maybe smaller. Aphid pressure finally easing to make way for SWD. Anyone with fruit left should not have abandoned spray program, less they face infestations. .

Western Oregon, Willamette Valley

- **Blackberries:** (Tuesday, 9/2) Evergreens are slowing down, probably done the end of next week. Everything going into a barrel no IQF quality. SWD pressure is very high, spraying every 6 to 7 days and can't keep them out. The heat took a toll on yields, won't be as good as originally thought but still above average. Labor short for harvest and training and for that matter anything.



SWD report for week 36

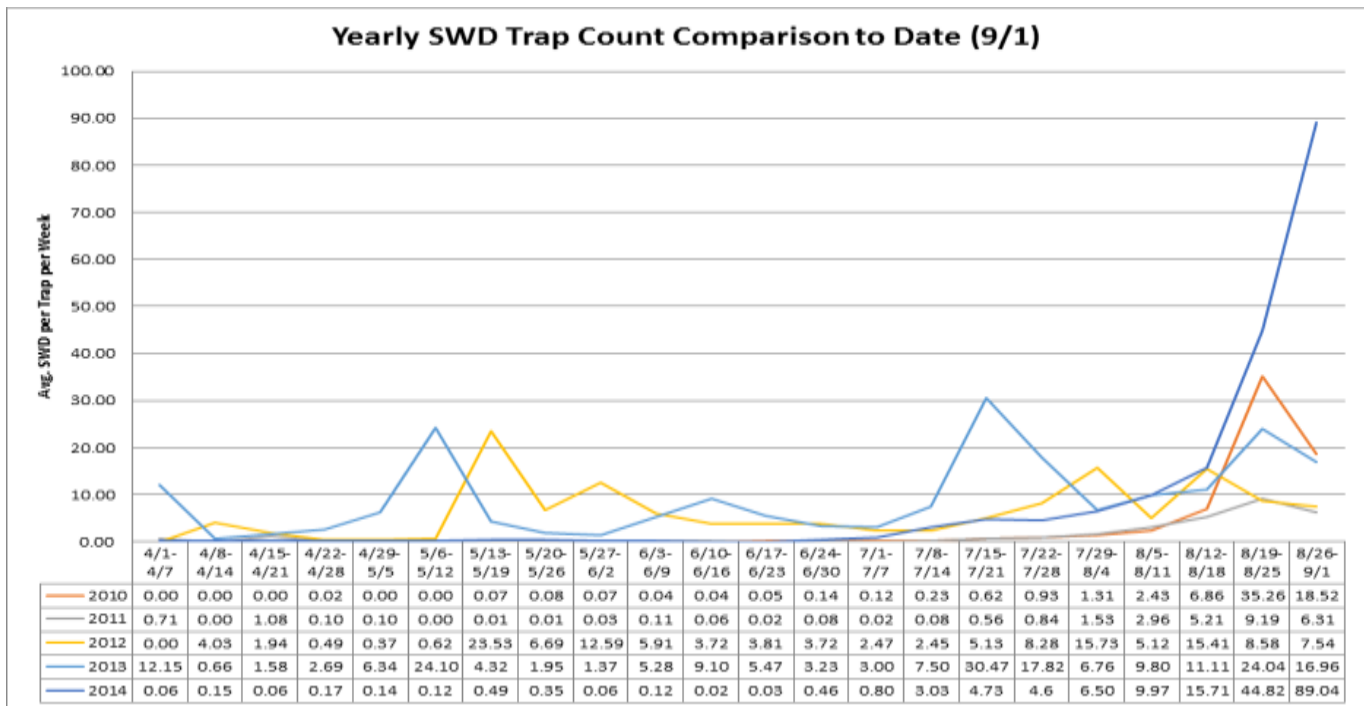
Willamette Valley public scouting program trap count comparisons

Season to date, 2010-2014

Note: This chart is an indicator of SWD population levels as compared from year to year but is just an indicator. We have changed some fields, some trap locations, and some trap baits and types as well as other factors that influence trap catches over the last five years as we learn and adapt. This is a dynamic, developing process—our ability to monitor and forecast this pest and the risks it poses has improved each year. Keep that in mind when interpreting this information.

Comments

- This is the last SWD monitoring report for the 2014 season.
- The big majority of our sampling is from larger, commercial fields. U-pick, small fresh market, backyard berry plantings, etc. would likely have higher infestation rates.
- Risk continues to increase for crops still being harvested. If the weather turns cooler and wetter, the risk will increase even more.
- We continue to pull traps out of post harvest fields so that our overall trap numbers dropped this week from 39 to 23.
- However, even with less than half the traps overall adults caught jumped from 1703 to 2048.
- The average catch per trap per week doubled this week from 45 to 89.
- Risk to fruit in fields is at the highest level of the year.
- Counts from adult traps over the last few weeks:
 - **Week 36:** SWD: 2048 Number of traps:23
 - **Week 35:** SWD: 1703 Number of traps:38
 - **Week 34:** SWD: 1084 Number of traps:69
 - **Week 33:** SWD: 738 Number of traps: 74
 - **Week 32:** SWD: 520 Number of traps: 80
 - **Week 31:** SWD: 299 Number of traps: 65
 - **Week 30:** SWD: 317 Number of traps: 67
 - **Week 29:** SWD: 200 Number of traps: 66/ First larvae recovered from commercial blueberry fields.



Monitoring berries for SWD larvae in the field

[We have created a video of the larvae-checking method.](#) It's from 2010 but still pretty good.

- Put a sample of fruit to be tested (Caneberries/blueberries ~50 per sample) in a gallon size sealable plastic bag.
- Pour in enough salt water solution to allow the fruit to float (solution is: 1 cup of salt per gallon of water). Mark bag with field code/date. Gently crush/break open fruit.
- For a quick check in the field after a designated period of time (at least 15 minutes) hold the baggie up to light. This helps to see the larvae in the solution.
- For a more thorough examination, after a designated period of time (at least 15 minutes), pour the fruit and salt solution out into a shallow tray and use a piece of wire mesh screen to hold the fruit down making it easier to separate the larvae from the fruit.

Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) for Most Common Export Markets (last updated 5/9/14)

[Blueberries](#) [Caneberries](#) [Strawberries](#)

SWD Management Material Resources

Oregon and Washington (last updated 2/24/14)

- **Blueberries:** [SWD pesticide options and information](#)
- **Raspberries and blackberries:** [SWD pesticide options and information](#)
- **Strawberries:** [SWD pesticide options and information](#)

British Columbia

- [Spotted Wing Drosophila \(SWD\) Management in B.C. Berry Crops](#) last updated 6/24/14.

Industry news/resources

Newsletters/ berry reports

- [BC Blueberry IPM Newsletter](#) (8/31) Weekly by [ES Cropconsult](#). Sponsored by the BC Blueberry Council.
- [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](#) (9/2) marketing news from The Produce News.
- [Weekly Market Report](#) (9/1) from General Produce Company

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 (8/28): A comment on vigor in strawberry varieties** 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

- California: [Growers say groundwater bills would bring uncertainty](#) (9/2, Capital Press)

Technology

- [The new AgVerdict program is in](#) (9/2, Precision Ag)

Pest Management

- New York: [Farmers seek solutions to invasive berry pest](#) (9/3, Fresh Plaza)

International

- Argentina: [Argentina gears up for first blueberry shipments in September](#) (8/27, Fresh Fruit Portal)
- China: [Will Chinese blueberry prices continue to decrease into next year?](#) (9/3, Fresh Plaza)
- Germany: [Berry Acreage grows by 7%](#) (9/2, Fresh Plaza)



PCM Scout in early season blueberries 5-19-14

Event calendar

- **September 10 — Washington Red Raspberry Commission** ~ Board meeting in Lynden. [Contact Henry Bierlink](#) for more information.
- **September 18 — Willamette Valley Grower/Fieldman Meeting** ~ Free event. 8 am North Willamette Research and Extension station, Aurora. Topic: Season review/market conditions. For more information call (503-289-7287) or [email](#) Peerbolt Crop Management.
- **September 18 — Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission** ~ 6 pm. At Langdon Farms Golf Club. [The agenda](#). Call 541-758-4043 or [email Phillip Gutt](#) for more information.
- **September 23 — Oregon Blueberry Commission** ~ 12 pm, at Chemeketa Events at Winema, Building 48, Room 210. Contact Bryan Ostlund for more information at 503-364-2944 or [by email](#).

- **September 24 — Oregon Strawberry Commission** ~ At Langdon Farms Golf Club. Call 541-758-4043 or [email Phillip Gutt](#) for more information.
- **October 1 — North American Blueberry Council (NABC) 2014 Fall Meeting.** Rosemont, Illinois, Hyatt Rosemont Hotel. The USHBC will hold meetings at the same hotel on Oct 1-3. [Registration form](#) and more information. [Tentative schedule.](#)
- **October 29 — Washington Red Raspberry Commission** ~ Board meeting in Lynden. [Contact Henry Bierlink](#) for more information.
- **November 11 — Oregon Blueberry Commission** ~ 12 pm, at Chemeketa Events at Winema, Building 48, Room 210. Contact Bryan Ostlund for more information at 503-364-2944 or [by email.](#)
- **November 16 — 19 Entomological Society of America Annual Meeting** at the Oregon Convention Center, downtown Portland.
- **November 17-18 — National Processed Raspberry Council** ~ Seattle Airport Marriott, Seattle, WA. For more information, contact Tom Krugman, 360-354-0948.
- **November 19 — Oregon Strawberry Commission workshop** "Fresh market strawberries: What it takes to be successful." 8am-7pm, lunch and dinner provided. Admittance is free. Woodburn, OR. More details to follow. Contact Lora Liegel by phone (503-289-7287) or [email](#) for more info.
- **December 3 — Washington Red Raspberry Commission** ~ Annual Meeting in Lynden in the evening. [Contact Henry Bierlink](#) for more information.
- **December 4-5 — WSU Small Fruit Conference & Lynden Ag Show**

Week 36--- Pest management & field work

Crop Work/Pest Management Activities Week 36

All crops

- Pay attention to new plantings of all berries for weeds, water, insects, diseases, and nutrient deficiencies.
- Maintain SWD monitoring and management plan. ([blueberries](#), [raspberries](#), [blackberries](#), [strawberries](#))
- Weed management.
- Post-harvest—soil and leaf test for evaluation of nutrients.
 - [OSU's Blueberry Nutrient \(and testing\) Guidelines](#)
 - [OSU's Caneberry Nutrient \(and testing\) Guidelines.](#)
- Post harvest—can treat for SWD if field is adjacent to vulnerable fruit crop.
- Scout for Root Weevil adults [Black Vine](#), [Rough Strawberry](#), [Strawberry Root Weevils](#).

Blueberries

Harvest ongoing

- Scout for [mummyberry](#) infected fruit.
- Scout for leaf symptoms—poor growth, nutrient deficiencies, water stress, herbicide damage, etc & determine if actions are needed.
- Maintain [bird damage management](#).
- Scout for weevil notching on leaves and for adult weevils.
- Scout for [leafroller larvae](#) feeding.
- Stay on top of [Aphids/Scorch Virus](#) management where Scorch virus transmission is an issue.
- Scout for virus symptoms and send in samples for testing as needed. ([Scorch](#), [Shock](#)).
- Scout for [Blueberry Gall Midge](#) damage.
- Scout for berry symptoms like green fruit botrytis, hail damage, [Mummyberry](#), etc.
- Can treat for [Alternaria Fruit Rot](#) and [Anthracnose Ripe Rot](#) prevention if needed.
- Scout for scale insects.
- Can use pheromone traps to monitor for leafrollers.
- Scout for berry symptoms like green fruit botrytis, mummyberry, etc.

Raspberries

Processed harvest finished

Scout for cane collapse symptoms & determine cause ([Phytophthora Root Rot](#), Verticillium, crown borers, overwatering, etc.)

Post harvest

- Scout for [Yellow Rust](#) and assess treatment options.
- Scout for [Two-spotted Mites](#) and treat as needed.

For late season, fresh market:

- Scout for weevils and treat as needed ([Black Vine](#), [Rough Strawberry](#), [Strawberry Root Weevils](#)).
- Scout for virus symptoms and send in samples for testing as needed ([RBDV](#), [TRsV](#))
- Scout for [fruit mold](#) and treat as needed.
- Scout for [Yellow Rust](#) and assess treatment options.
- Scout for [Two-spotted Mites](#), [Yellow mites](#) and treat as needed.
- Scout for [aphids](#) and treat as needed.
- Scout for [leafroller larvae](#).

Blackberries

Mid season processed harvest finished/Late ripening variety harvest ongoing

- Scout for leafroller larvae ([O.T.](#), [OBLR](#)) and treat as needed to prevent fruit contaminant problems.
- Scout for virus symptoms and send in samples for testing as needed. ([RBDV](#))
- Scout for and treat as needed [Blackberry Rust](#) in Evergreen blackberries.
- Scout for [Twospotted Spider Mites](#) and treat as needed in susceptible cultivars.
- Scout for [Cane and Leaf Rust](#).
- Scout for [aphids](#) and treat as needed.
- Scout for cane collapse symptoms & determine cause ([Phytophthora Root Rot](#), Verticillium, crown borers, overwatering, etc.)

Strawberries

Processed harvest (June bearers) finished throughout region. Fresh market harvest ongoing.

All strawberries

- Evaluate weak growing areas and check plants for weevil larvae, root rot and/or cold damage.
- (South) Can scout for [Strawberry Crown Moth larvae](#).
- Scout for weevil adults and notching.

Processed market-June bearers—finished harvesting

- [Weed Control at strawberry renovation](#) (6/26/12, Michigan State Extension)
- Mow and treat immediately for [SCM/SWD](#) if needed.
- Mow and renovate 2-4 weeks after harvest unless pest pressure require mowing and treating sooner.
- Apply main fertilizer application as needed.

Fresh market-still harvesting

- Scout for [Lygus Bugs](#) and treat as needed.
- Scout for fruit damage symptoms like cat facing, [slug damage](#), anthracnose, etc.
- Can apply slug bait as needed.
- Scout for [Powdery Mildew](#) and treat as needed.
- Scout for [Twospotted Spider Mites](#) and predatory, beneficial mites.
- Scout for [aphids](#), lady beetles, aphid mummies (parasitized aphids), and other beneficial insects that feed on aphids.
- Scout for fruit quality issues such as mold ([Botrytis](#)).

Archived Small Fruit Updates

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

[35-SFU08-27-14](#) [34-SFU08-20-14](#) [33-SFU08-13-14](#)