

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 18, 2015

Week 8

Table of Contents

[Early season development](#)

[Blueberry bud comparison](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Pest Management](#)

[Industry News](#)

[America Loves Smoothies and the Frozen Foods Industry Knows It](#) (2/15, NPR)

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

We're way ahead of normal in degree day accumulation this year, as I point out below. Growers have been getting a little nervous about all the potential risks associated with early plant development. So far—'just potential'.

It would definitely be best for a return to colder, more seasonal weather and maybe even a good shot of snow and, checking out [The Weather Café](#) above, Rufus is predicting just that.

Hope you're right, Rufus!

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

[B.C. Strawberry Growers Association](#)
[Raspberry Industry Development Council](#)
[B.C. Blueberry Council](#)

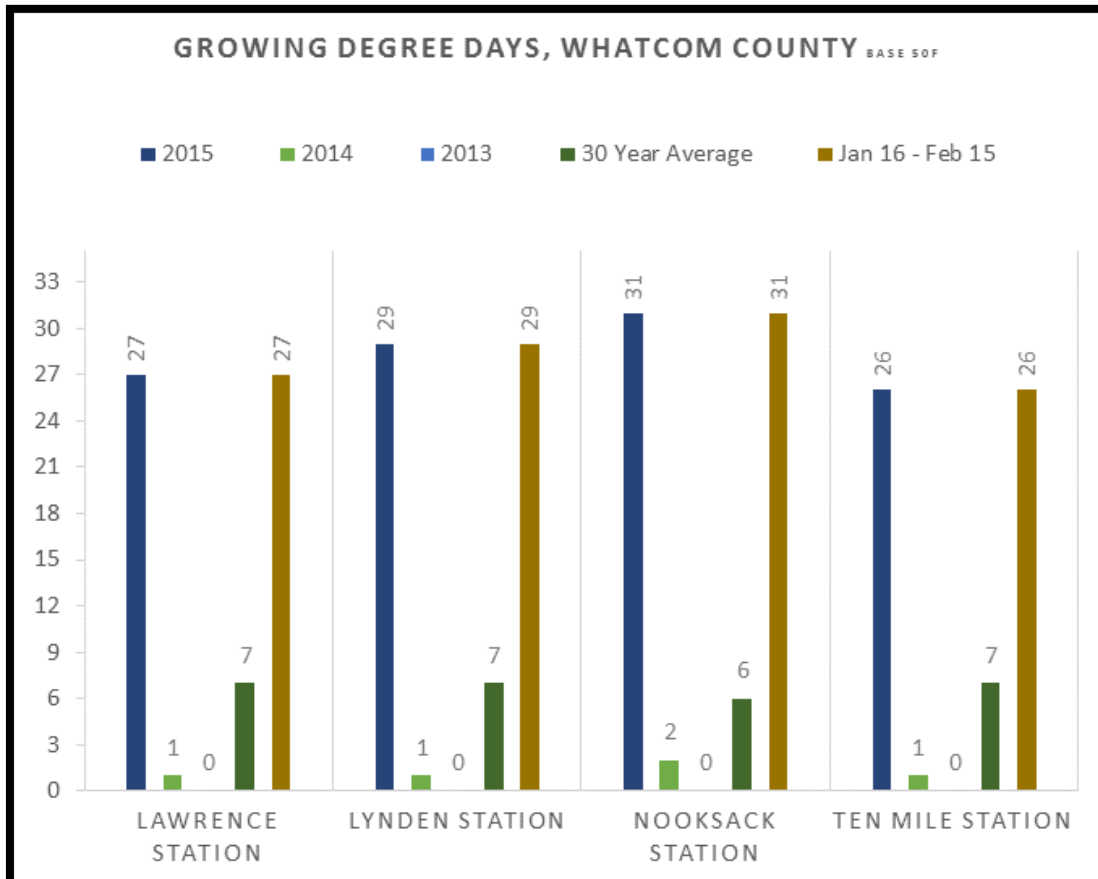
National

[North American Blueberry Council](#)

Early Season Accelerated Development Information

- **Degree Day Update for Northern Washington**

The graph below comes from [Chris Benedict](#), the WSU Extension agent in Whatcom County. Our whole region from B.C. down through the Willamette Valley has been experiencing a similar ahead-of-schedule degree day accumulation and the subsequent accelerated plant development.



- **Also from WSU Whatcom County Extension:**

- [Whatcom County Weather Data Source](#) Chris is presently updating their weather site that can be found at this link. Degree day information can be accessed there throughout the year.
- **Whatcom County SWD twice-weekly Degree Day e-mails Offered** Growers can also sign up to receive these again this year by emailing [Chris Benedict](#).

- **Late winter/early spring weather risk information**

- [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 links**
 - [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)

- **Blueberry Bud Development Comparison for the Western Willamette Valley**

I've been taking weekly bud development comparison photos from the same fields the last couple of years but have never started this early. Last year the first set of photos were taken on March 13th. I sampled the same fields Friday (February 13). The comparisons are below.

Top: March 13, 2014 Bottom: February 13, 2015



PatriotBlue Jay DraperDukeLiberty



Oregon Blueberry—Korea Export Program

- March 6 Deadline for Oregon Growers and Packers to register to participate during the 2015 season.
- [Go here](#) for the deadline announcement.
- [Go here](#) for the Korea Export Program's website.

Upcoming Regional Events

[Go here for Full Event Calendar](#)

- **February 19 — Oregon Strawberry Commission Annual Growers Meeting** ~ at the North Willamette Research and Extension Center, Aurora, OR 9-12:20 followed by lunch. [Go here](#) for the agenda.
- **New Posting: March 6 — WSU Whatcom Extension Irrigation Workshop “Strategies for Improved Delivery”** ~ [Go here](#) for the agenda and registration information.
- **March 16-17 — OSU Blueberry School** ~ LaSells Stuart Center, Corvallis. [Go here](#) for the event website. This a great event brought back after a few years “by popular demand”. It brings together a whole lot of

expertise on northwest blueberries and is for both new and experienced growers. They're also in need of industry sponsors to cover expenses. [Go here](#) for sponsorship information.

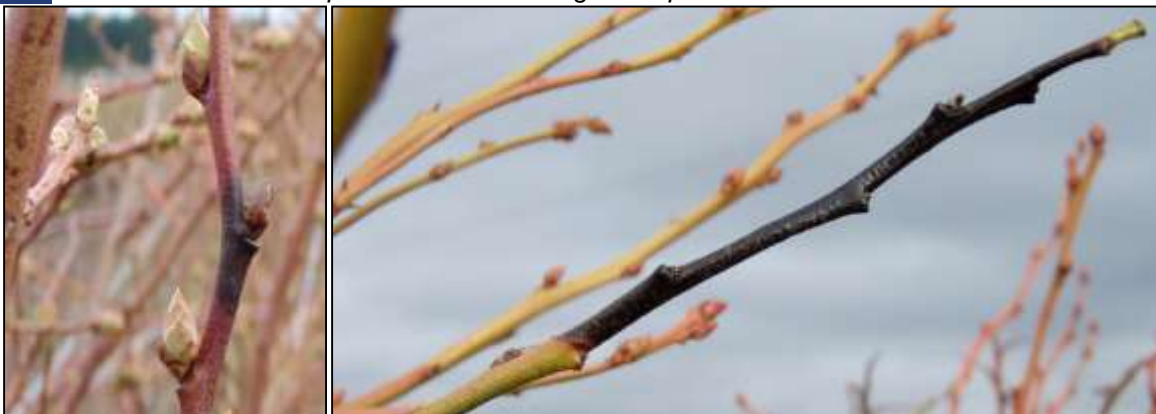
Upcoming National & International Berry Events

- **February 24-27 — North American Raspberry & Blackberry Association Annual Conference** ~ Fayetteville, Arkansas. Includes tour of U Arkansas blackberry breeding research (Dr. John R. Clark). For more information, contact info@raspberryblackberry.com or visit www.raspberryblackberry.com.
- **February 24-27 — North American Blueberry Council and the US Highbush Blueberry Council Spring Meetings** ~ Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin, Lake Buena Vista, Florida. [Go here](#) for the Feb 24 optional tour info; [go here](#) for the meeting schedule; [go here](#) for the registration form.
- **New Posting: March 23-25 — Global Berry Congress** ~ Rotterdam. [Go here](#) for their webpage.
- **New Posting: September 7-9 — 5th Annual International Blueberry Organization Summit**~ Coffs Harbor, Australia. [Go here](#) for meeting information.
- **New Posting: September 13-16 — International Symposium on Mechanical Harvesting & Handling of Fruits and Nuts** ~ Richland, Washington. [Go here](#) for meeting information.

Pest Management

Bacterial Blight (*Pseudomonas syringae*), blueberries.

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



Pseudomonas syringae (bacterial canker) symptoms in blueberries

- February is bringing warm spells that is causing blueberry buds to start swelling.
- These swelling buds are vulnerable to infection by the ever present bacteria, *Pseudomonas syringae*, especially during warm, wet weather.
- Once infected, those buds are vulnerable to subsequent freeze damage at a higher temperature than buds that aren't infected.
- If warm, wet weather is predicted, applications of copper can help prevent *Pseudomonas* infections
- **Caution:** Many strains of this bacteria are resistant to copper compounds. Avoid over applying to help minimize resistance.

Starling management

- Right now starlings are starting to think about fledging (*you know they are...*). Population control becomes very difficult once that starts because they multiply rapidly. This is a major pest species that needs year round management attention.
 - [Click here](#) for a starling fact sheet.
 - [Click here](#) for a starling nesting fact sheet.



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.
- [The Source](#) (2/16) Produce marketing news from Pro*Act.

Magazine/website compilations

- **The Packer:** [blueberries](#), [blackberries](#), [raspberries](#), [strawberries](#).
- **Growing Produce:** [recent berry articles](#).
- **Fruitnet-Eurofruit:** [recent berry articles](#).
- **Fresh Fruit Portal:** [blueberries](#), [blackberries](#), [raspberries](#), [strawberries](#).

Berry research blogs

- [Strawberries and Caneberries](#) by Mark Bolda, UC Davis Berry Extension Agent. **Recent entry (2/14): Identifying the Characteristics of Organic Soil Amendments that Suppress Soilborne Plant Diseases** 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

- [Weather Service predicts wet March in California](#) (2/17, Capital Press)

Pest Management

- Europe: [Prepare for SWD berry producers told](#) (2/10, Fruitnet)

Food Safety

- [New CanadaGAP rules take effect on April 1](#) (2/6, The Packer)
- [Go here](#) for **CanadaGAP food safety manuals** for downloading

Recalls

- [Hepatitis A outbreak in Australia prompts recall of frozen berries](#) (2/16, Food Safety News) Packs included blueberries from Chile; Strawberries, blackberries & raspberries from China.
- [Chilean fruit industry denies links to Australian Hep A scare](#) (2/16, Fresh Fruit Portal)

Regulatory Agencies

- [California regulators clamp down on fumigant pesticides](#) (1/24, San Jose Mercury News)

West Coast Port Problems

- [Chilean fruit export industry fears for cargo following U.S. port suspensions](#) (2/16, Fresh Fruit Portal)
- [Obama steps in to resolve West Coast port problems](#) (2/15, Fresh Fruit Portal)
- [Labor secretary to seek resolution of port dispute](#) (2/14, Capital Press)
- [More suspensions, delays at West Coast Ports](#) (2/12, The Packer)

Labor

- [Obama immigration action creates pitfalls for employers](#) (2/17, Capital Press)

- [\\$100 million or more at stake in Washington piece-rate case](#) (2/12, Capital Press)

Business/Marketing

- [Naturipe's marketing coordinator Jesse Curtis talks being fully social](#) (2/12, andnowyouknow.com)
- [Grower-shippers expand other berry offerings](#) (2/13, The Packer)
- [Driscoll's appoints global food safety director](#) (1/26, The Packer)
- [Special Fruit renews house style and Berry Fresh packaging](#) (2/12, Fresh Plaza)

Pollination

- [Beekeepers face challenges in and out of almond bloom](#) (2/3, Western Farm Press)

Organic

- [Organic proposal for national research and promotion program faces skeptics and undecided](#) (2/13, The Packer (2/13))

Technology

- [Draft U.S. rules on commercial drones keep some limits on use](#) (2/16, Ag Professional)
- [Agrarian releases updated ag data management platform](#) (2/9, Precision Ag)

Intellectual Property

- [UC Davis, strawberry growers settle big lawsuit](#) (2/10, Sacramento Bee)
- [UC Davis, California Strawberry Commission end berry battle](#) (2/9, UC Davis)

Research/Plant Breeding

- Spain: [New strawberry and raspberry varieties from Planasa](#) (2/4, Fresh Plaza)

The West

- California: [Future of strawberry breeding secured?](#) (2/17, Fresh Plaza)
- **California Strawberry Articles in the Packer (2/13)**
 - [Southern California business updates](#)
 - [Strawberry Commission teaks focus](#)
 - [Growers rely on proprietary varieties](#)
 - [Cal Poly research center opens](#)
 - [Strawberry acreage dips but yields may improve](#)

North America

- New Jersey: [New Jersey 2014 blueberry crop valued at \\$79.5 million](#) (1/30, Gardener News.com) *Up 40% from 2013*
- Florida: [Strawberry production up from last year](#) (2/3, Fresh Plaza)

International

Mexico/China

- [Mexican embassy in China holds reception to celebrate first berries' arrival](#) (2/6, Fresh Fruit Portal)

Chile

- [Chilean blueberries in promotable volumes through March](#) (*in U.S.*) (2/6, The Packer)
- [Southern regions of Chile exporting more blueberries](#) (2/13, Fresh Plaza)

Argentina

- [ABC members do business at Fruit Logistica](#) (2/5, ABC Website)
- [Strategies to differentiate the Argentine blueberry industry](#) (2/11, Fresh Fruit Portal)

China

- [New e-commerce platform to shake up imported fruit business](#) (2/17, Fresh Fruit Portal)
- [Food smuggling case in national media spotlight](#) (2/17, Fresh Fruit Portal)

Europe

- Spain: [First project for large scale blueberry production in Galicia](#) (2/16, Fresh Plaza)
- Poland: [Good situation for blueberry growers in Poland](#) (2/11, Fresh Plaza)
- Germany: [Record harvest of blueberries](#) (2/9, Fresh Plaza)
- Portugal: [Driscoll's to invest 3 million euro's into operation](#) (2/17, Fresh Plaza)

Australia

- [Australia's blueberry industry inspires German growers during study trip](#) (2/5, ABC Rural)
- [Cool summer temps helping berry harvest in Victoria, blackberry season extended](#) (Fresh Plaza)

Archived Small Fruit Updates

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

[06-SFU02-03-15](#)

[02-SFU01-06-15](#)

[49-SFU12-01-14](#)