

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 24, 2015

Week 9

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[Portland firm closes \\$250 million fund to support sustainable berry and hazelnut farms](#) (1/23, *Portland Business Journal*)

Some related videos from *Equilibrium Capital*:

- [The Investment Opportunity in Permanent Crops](#) (Last year) 22 minute video
- [Realigning the Value Chain in Sustainable Agriculture](#) (5 months ago) 32 minute video
- [Equilibrium Capital Forum 2014 highlight video](#) (June, 2014)

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



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](#)

Regional reports

British Columbia, Fraser Valley

- **Blueberries:** (Thursday, 2/19). We are having highs around 16 C (61 F) the last couple days. Reka is open to the point of being able to count the individual flowers on at least 25% of the flowers in the mid-valley and I'm sure it's higher in the east. The west is behind and just swollen at this point. Not too worried of temp

getting too cold by itself but a lot of our areas are exposed to high winds as well when we get the cold. Fingers crossed and hoping Mother Nature is watching over us all!

- **All Berries:** (Thursday, 2/19) Weather is the main issue now. Rather on the dry side and unusually high temps in all our BC regions minus the far north. First blooms of Magnolias open, daffodils open everywhere. In the early varieties of blueberries we can see the flower clusters and flowers separating in the Eastern Fraser Valley. Bloom is now 10% in Haskap. Strawberries are moving fast and raspberries are moving with lots of green showing. Blackberries are even further along. Next week there's a danger of frost. Stuff we do not need! Lots of work going on right now Suppliers are busy selling fertilizer and chemicals. But it is way too early to make any predictions on when harvest will come in and how dangerous this is right now. An interesting article in our provincial newspaper: [Early buds pose risk to blueberry crops](#) (2/18, Vancouver Sun)

Northern Washington, Whatcom County

- **Raspberries & blueberries:** (Thursday, 2/19) Lots of raspberry fields being worked and some have already been planted in Whatcom county; the baby fields planted last year are quite green. Most of the blueberry plants I've seen have some floral buds loosening. I haven't seen open mummyberry apothecia yet, but they can't be far off.

Northern Washington, Skagit County

- **Raspberries & blueberries:** (Thursday, 2/19--*From Lisa Wasco DeVetter, WSU Small Fruit Horticulturist*) Raspberries are starting to be planted and growers that didn't fall fumigate are preparing to spring fumigate for replanted fields. I've seen some Duke blueberries in Whatcom and Skagit counties at bud swell. Some of the blueberry material at the WSU Mount Vernon research station with southern highbush in their background are showing a lot of open bloom. Which is a bit scary to look at in mid-February!

Western Oregon, Willamette Valley

- **Blueberries:** (Thursday, 2/19--*From Bernadine Strik, OSU Small Fruit Horticulturist*) Things are VERY early. Legacy is at bud break with some apical floral buds at tight cluster stage (hardy to 25F). Duke are at bud swell stage in most places I've looked at. Some Rabbiteye are at bud break stage and some younger plants have some apical buds at tight cluster. Considering how early it is, it will be a scary frost season. I would expect some loss of early flowers in Legacy considering the length of the possible frost season. Putting on a lot of water will not be practical for frost control (can lead to significant cane damage in a cultivar like Legacy, considering its growth habit). The good news is that Legacy has a lot of flowers! The risk will be much greater further north – I do not think Legacy is adapted beyond the Willamette Valley in Oregon, Southern Oregon, or the coast based on its lack of sufficient cold hardiness when dormant and its sensitivity to cold in fall and in spring – this year our “spring” (isn't it winter?) will be the test. I'm worried that this is our spring and the weather will get nasty and stay that way...hope not.

Strawberries and caneberries: (Thursday, 2/19) Strawberries and caneberries are moving fast too. The good news for caneberries is that breaking laterals are quite cold hardy....not the case for strawberry flowers and who knows when bloom will be this year! Yikes.



Blueberries-Hillsboro, OR 2-15-15

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 --started last week (2-13-15). Last year the first set of photos were taken on March 13th. It's the bottom row below.

Northwestern Willamette Valley Top – 2/20/15 Middle – 2/13/15 Bottom – 3/13/14

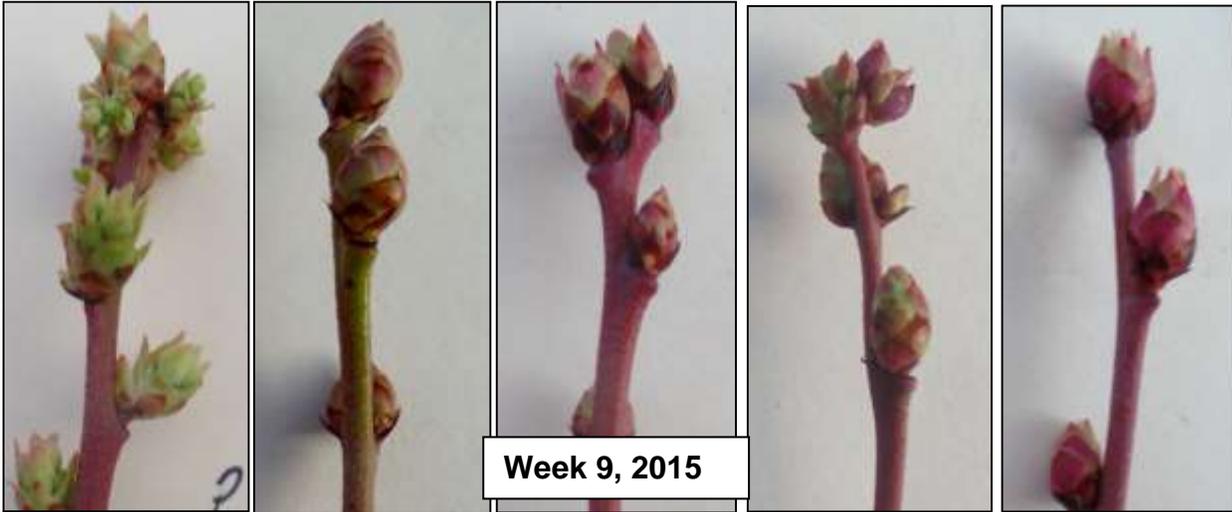
Patriot

Bluejay

Draper

Duke

Liberty



Patriot

Bluejay

Draper

Duke

Liberty

Early Season Accelerated Development Information

- **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 to 15 F (-12 to -9 C)”.
 - **Tight cluster:** “Individual flowers distinguishable. Can tolerate 20 to 23 F (-7 to -5 C)”.
 - **Early pink bud:** “Expanding flowers are readily visible & have separated. The pink corolla tubes (petals) are short & closed. Can tolerate 23 to 25 F (-4 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)

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.

Classified



Peerbolt Crop Management Field Services for 2015

We’re in the process of planning our field season and are about to begin scout hiring. Please contact us soon if you might be interested in contracting for field services for 2015. Once our seasonal scouts are hired & trained our ability to add new field work is limited.

Field services offered:

- **Field scouting/monitoring:** Weekly or every other week field scouting/monitoring for pests & diseases. We’re implementing our newly developed GPS based system this year for quicker and more accurate reporting.
- **Scouting/monitoring for Spotted Wing Drosophila:** Field and fruit monitoring specifically for SWD.
- **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 & online reporting resources to meet whatever your specific field management needs might be.

Pease call 503-289-7287 or [email](#) for more information or [click here](#) to go to our business website.

Upcoming Commission Meetings

- **March 10 — Oregon Blueberry Commission** ~ At noon Chemeketa Events at Winema, Building 48, Room 210. Contact Bryan Ostlund for more information at 503-364-2944 or [by email](#)
- **March 11 — Oregon Strawberry Commission** ~ McMenamins Restaurant, 310 NE Evans St., McMinnville. **10:30** Research Committee; **11:15** Promotion Committee; **Noon:** Regular Commission Meeting. Call 541-758-4043 or [email Philip Gutt](#) for more information.
- **March 17 — Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission** ~ Chevy's Restaurant, 14991 Bangy Road, Lake Oswego. **10:00** Legislative/Labor/Education Committee; **10:30** Research Committee; **11:00** Budget Committee; **Noon:** Regular Commission Meeting. Call 541-758-4043 or [email Philip Gutt](#) for more information.
- **April 8 — Washington Red Raspberry Commission** ~ Puyallup, WA, WSU Research Station. Contact Henry Bierlink for more information by [email](#) or phone 360-354-8767.

Upcoming Regional Events

[Go here for Full Event Calendar](#)

- **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.

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.
- **March 23-25 — Global Berry Congress** ~ Rotterdam. [Go here](#) for their webpage.
- **May 18-19 — National Processed Raspberry Council** ~ Resort in Blaine, WA. [Go here](#) to make hotel reservations or call phone 360-318-2000. Be sure to identify yourself as part of the National Processed Raspberry Council. For more information, please contact Tom Krugman, 360-354-0948, TKrugman@redraaz.org
- **New Posting: June 18-24 — Eleventh International Rubus and Ribes Symposium** ~ Charlotte & Asheville, North Carolina. [Go here](#) for their website with all the details.
- **September 7-9 — 5th Annual International Blueberry Organization Summit**~ Coffs Harbor, Australia. [Go here](#) for meeting information.
- **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 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 about to fledge. 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

[Washington Small Fruit Conference Proceedings and Recordings](#)

This was held December 3 & 4, 2014 in Lynden, Washington.

Newsletters/ berry reports

- [Whatcom Ag Monthly for February 15, 2015](#). 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](#) (2/18) 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 (2/19): Sodium chloride damage on raspberry** Reports on recent insect and disease research and observations in California.
- [Team Rubus](#) by Gina Fernandez, North Carolina State Small Fruit Specialist. **Recent entry (2/23): It was cold out there but no evidence of damage to the floral buds** Reports on issues in blackberries and raspberries from the Southeast.

Climate/Water

- [Storm brings rain, snow to Southern California](#) (2/23, Capital Press)

Food Safety

- Australia: [Food labeling won't stop Hepatitis A outbreaks](#) (2/18, Fresh Plaza)
- Australia: [Raspberries may be culprit in Hepatitis A outbreak](#) (2/18, Fresh Fruit Portal)

Labor

- [Florida blueberry growers seek labor solution](#) (2/18, The Packer)
- [farm labor association extends reach into other states](#) (2/20, Capital Press)

The West

- [West Coast port action back to normal after settlement](#) (2/23, The Produce News)
- [West Coast port negotiators strike a deal](#) (2/21, The Packer)
- B.C.: [Early buds pose risk to blueberry crops](#) (2/18, Vancouver Sun)
- California: [Strawberry acreage down, production stable](#) (2/19, Santa Cruz Sentinel)
- California: [Not easy for strawberry growers to avoid methyl bromide](#) (2/19, Visalia Times-Delta)

North America

- Southeast: [Polar Express blasts through Florida, leaves mark in Georgia](#) (2/23, The Produce News)
- Georgia: [Freezes damage Georgia blueberries](#) (2/20, The Packer)
- Florida: [Florida strawberry growers connecting consumers and pickers](#) (2/18, Fresh Plaza)
- Florida: [Florida blueberry growers sitting pretty—weather permitting](#) (2/18, Growing Produce)

International

Mexico

- [Serious losses for the blackberry of the Valley of the Kings](#) (2/23, Fresh Plaza)
- [Refrigerated chambers for berry exports to China](#) (2/23, Fresh Plaza)

Chile

- [Crop & Exports Report for Week 8](#) (2/16-2/22)
- [European blueberry imports on rise despite recession](#) (2/20, Fresh Plaza)

China

- [Chinese buy AU berries, reject their own as Hep A scare sparks fair-dinkum labels push](#) (2/19, news.com.au)

Australia

- [Dual threat of bugs, weather reduces organic berry harvest](#) (2/20, Fresh Plaza)
- [Australia to screen Chinese frozen berries](#) (2/23, Fresh Fruit Portal)

Archived Small Fruit Updates

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

[08-SFU02-18-15](#)

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

[04-SFU01-20-15](#)