

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 9, 2015

Week 37

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- [BC Blueberry Volumes on Par with Record Despite Challenges](#) (9/2, Fresh Fruit Portal)
- [How Driscoll's is Hacking the Strawberry of the Future](#) (7/29, Bloomberg News) A very well done story on Driscoll's breeding program.
- [The Bramble](#) (Autumn Issue, North American Raspberry & Blackberry Association) [Go here](#) for the NARBA website.

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

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 berry commissions and councils listed on the right who support this publication financially.

As always any feedback on any subject is appreciated. Don't be shy with criticism (or praise). How can I improve the SFU? [email me](#) or call me at 503-289-7287 (cell: 503-970-0922).

Thanks to all of you for the opportunity to work within a great ag community and industry. It's a privilege!

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](#)



From one of our hard working contributors (9/6): "Can't report unfortunately as having a hard time dealing with these meetings in Australia...;"

Regional reports

British Columbia, Fraser Valley (Monday 9/7)

From [Tom Baumann](#), Director of the Pacific Berry Resource Centre & UFV's Ag Dept. Coordinator:

- **Comments:** Cleanup under way for some remnants of fruit. Rain was intermittent but long enough to end the season for some producers. It was outright cold at nights and at first I thought I was imagining things but leaves are already turning red or whatever colour is typical for fall for the variety. Pumpkins are ready and it is time for Thanksgiving... There is one more spurt of warmth coming with dry and this will give us a chance to get whatever is left off the bushes.
- **Overall comments on the 2015 season:**

I requested comments on this unusual season & Tom responds below. Most of these remarks apply to the entire Northwest region. However it seems like B.C. was even more advanced in their harvest timing than Oregon by a couple of weeks. Thanks, Tom! TP.

 - The 2015 season started about 4 weeks early. By now we are at least 6 weeks early.
 - It was not one short weather event, it was one drawn out one from April to end of August.
 - Not so much the spikes, but the duration of the heat and drought.
 - Try to find it in the weather records, it was highly unusual.
 - However, we did well considering.
 - Rarely did we see much sunburn although it was hot and dry. But plants and fruit were acclimated to the consistent, steady heat. Instead of having cool wet weather followed by hot days. That's when fruit takes a beating.
 - Also, everyone was quick to pick. Often quick into the coolers. We had some more packing capacity so we missed the usual tight spots especially in Duke and in Bluecrop.
 - We did not get all the fruit we could have, but it is amazing how much we did get. I can't wait to see the statistics from all regions in the end.
 - Kudos to all the growers and the supporting players like us and thanks to Tom P and crew to keep us well informed.

Western Washington, Skagit County (Tuesday 9/8)

From [Tom Walters](#), Walters Ag Research, Anacortes, WA.

- **Disease Management:** In the late blackberries, Botrytis jumped up significantly in the last week. On one farm in Skagit, Pristine is not touching it, and Switch is marginal. Some new products are

doing a good job, though. It brings me back to Alan Schreiber's talks on fungicide resistance last winter.

Eastern Washington (Tuesday, 9/8)

- **Blueberries:** Cool nights, warm days putting color on the leaves, still seeing SWD in the traps. Feels like Fall already, time soon for copper sprays.

Oregon/SW Washington (Tuesday, 9/8)

- **Blueberries:** Just a few Aurora fields still getting a last pick out this week. That should wrap it up and we can get on to the post season analysis...and football!



Photo by T. Peerbolt

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.*
- [Market Report from General Produce for Week 36](#) (9/7)
- [USDA Market News \(Fruits & Vegetables\)](#)
- [Oregon Strawberry Commission Fresh Market Bulletin](#) (9/3)

Magazine/website compilations

- **The Packer:** [blueberries](#), [blackberries](#), [raspberries](#), [strawberries](#).
- **Growing Produce:** [recent berry articles](#).
- **Andnowyouknow.com:** [blueberries](#), [blackberries](#), [raspberries](#), [strawberries](#).
- **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: (9/5) Chill hours starting to accumulate.** *Reports on recent insect and disease research and observations in California.*
- [Team Rubus](#) by Gina Fernandez, North Carolina State Small Fruit Specialist. **Recent Entry: (8/20) XIth International Rubus and Ribes Symposium puts the Carolinas on the map!** *Reports on issues in blackberries and raspberries from the Southeast.*

Climate/Water

- Washington: [Rain washes away 'extreme' drought in Western Washington](#) (9/4, Capital Press)

- Washington: [Drought threatens westside water rights, Washington Department of Ecology warns](#) (9/1, Capital Press)
- California: [State climatologist, weather service tamp down El Nino expectations](#) (9/4, Capital Press)

Regulatory Agencies

- [EPA water rule impact clear as mud, ag groups say](#) (8/28, Capital Press)
- [Washington and Oregon defend EPA's new water rule](#) (9/1, Capital Press)
- [Judge finds evidence EPA was arbitrary, capricious in writing WOTUS rule](#) (9/3, Ag Professional)

Pollinators/Pesticides

- [Bee protections could put crops at risk, say farmers](#) (9/2, Agri-Pulse)

Breeding/Cultivars

- [Strawberry Variety 'Fronteras' performance report](#) (9/4, UC Davis Blog)

Pest Management

- [Irradiation can be an alternative to fumigation](#) (9/3, Entomology Today)

Technology

- [Blackberry trellis system boosts growers profits](#) (August USDA AgResearch Magazine)
- [Commentary: Three takeaways from the Precision Ag Data Platforms Conference](#) (9/4, Ag Professional)

Business/Marketing

- [Tight blueberry market because of transition](#) (9/2, Fresh Plaza)
- [California Giant website nominated for Hubspot award](#) (9/1, The Packer) *It is a great website—[Go here](#) to see it.*

The West

- B.C.: [BC Blueberry Council anticipates a strong finish for the 2015 season](#) (9/1, andnowyouknow.com)
- [California raspberry supply is picking up again](#) (9/8, Fresh Plaza)

North America

- [Strawberry production up](#) (9/4, The Packer)
- Maine: [Machines take place of migrants as wild blueberry harvest booms](#) (9/7, KOMONews.com)

International

- Poland: [Strong increase in raspberry prices](#) (9/8, Fresh Plaza)
- Argentina: [Tucuman getting ready for new blueberry export season](#) (9/7, Fresh Plaza)
- Chile: [Technology to increase the lifespan of blueberries](#) (9/3, Fresh Plaza)
- Argentina: [Argentina expects "auspicious" blueberry season](#) (9/4, Fresh Fruit Portal)
- Chile: [2014/15 Chilean blueberry season sets record](#) (9/2, iNews)
- Scotland: [Promising market for Scottish blueberries](#) (8/27, Fresh Plaza)
- Australia: ['Don't let blueberries go bananas', food trend expert warns](#) (9/7, Fresh Fruit Portal)
- Australia: [Aussie blueberry marketing keeps prices steady amid rapid growth](#) (9/8, Fresh Fruit Portal)
- Poland: [Polish blueberries enter Singaporean market](#) (9/8, Fresh Plaza)
- Mexico: [Waiting the arrival of Mexican blackberries](#) (9/3, Fresh Plaza)
- Mexico: [Now there are berry crops in six States](#) (8/27, Fresh Plaza)



Top Shelf blueberries 6-18-15, Willamette Valley
Photo by Tom Peerbolt

Events [Go here for Full Event Calendar](#)

Regional Commission/Council meeting schedules

I'll update the commission/council meeting schedules, agendas and locations as the information becomes available. It's a little spotty right now. You can also contact the individual commission/council office for further information. Their website links are in the sponsor box at the top of this newsletter.

- **September 16 — Washington Red Raspberry Commission** ~ Lynden, WA. Contact: henry@red-raspberry.org
- **September 17 — Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission** ~ Hayden's Grill, Tualatin. [Go here](#) of the meeting agenda. Contact: berries@oregon-berries.com
- **September 22 — Oregon Blueberry Commission** ~ noon at the Chemeketa Events at Winema, Building 48, Room 210, Salem. Contact: jenny@ostlund.com
- **September 23 — Oregon Strawberry Commission** ~ Contact: berries@oregon-berries.com
- **October 28 — Washington Red Raspberry Commission** ~ Lynden, WA. Contact: henry@red-raspberry.org
- **November 10 — Oregon Blueberry Commission** ~ noon at the Chemeketa Events at Winema, Building 48, Room 210, Salem. Contact: jenny@ostlund.com
- **December 2—Washington Red Raspberry Commission** ~ at the [Washington Small Fruit Conference](#), Lynden, WA. Contact: henry@red-raspberry.org.
- **January 12 — Oregon Blueberry Commission** ~ noon at the Chemeketa Events at Winema, Building 48, Room 210, Salem. Contact: jenny@ostlund.com (research updates 7:30-11:30 am; committee mtngs 11:30am-12:30pm; Commission mtng 12:30pm)

Regional Berry Events

- **December 2-4 Washington Small Fruit Conference** ~ at the NW Washington Fairgrounds, Lynden, WA. [Go here](#) for more information and to register.
- **January 25 — Oregon Blueberry Conference** ~ at the Red Lion on the River, Jantzen Beach, Portland. Email Contact: jenny@ostlund.com
- **New Posting: March 2 — 10th Annual Production Workshop for Commercial Raspberry & Blackberry Growers** ~ Wellspring Conference Center, 1475 Mt. Hood Ave., Woodburn. Details TBA.

National & International Berry Events

- **September 13-16 — International Symposium on Mechanical Harvesting & Handling of Fruits and Nuts** ~ Richland, Washington. [Go here](#) for meeting information.

- **October 7-9** — [North American Blueberry Council](#) & [US Highbush Blueberry Council](#) **Fall Meetings** ~ Las Vegas, Nevada. [Go here](#) for to register
- **October 13-15** — **6th Biennial Berry Health Benefits Symposium** ~ Madison, Wisconsin. [Go here](#) for all the details.
- **New Posting: November 2-3** — **National Processed Raspberry Council** ~ Seattle Airport Marriott. Contact Tom Krugman, 360-354-0948, tkrugman@redrazz.org.
- **New Posting: March 2-4** — **2016 North American Raspberry & Blackberry Conference** ~ Williamsburg, Virginia. [Go here](#) for all the details.

Fall crop work/pest management activities

It looks like an early fall. Keep these tasks in mind. Timing will depend on weather and plant stage.

All crops

- Weed management.
- Apply lime, dolomite, gypsum and/or fall fertilizer.
- Scout for [vole damage](#).

Blueberries post harvest

- Can apply copper or Bordeaux for [bacterial canker](#).
- Prune out canker-killed branches and remove them from the field.
- Scout for weevils and weevil notching.

Caneberries post harvest

- Can cut out old floricanes now and tie up primocanes.
- Scout and mark problem weed areas that could be treated in the winter.
- Can apply Ridomil for [root rot](#) control.
- Can apply copper or Bordeaux after tying up canes.
- Can drench for [borer](#) control.

Strawberries post harvest

- Can apply fertilizer.
 - Scout weak areas for [root weevil larvae](#), [strawberry crown moth](#), root disease or soil problems.
 - Can apply drench for [weevil larvae](#) management.
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Archived Small Fruit Updates

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

[36-SFU09-02-15](#)

[35-SFU08-26-15](#)

[34-SFU08-20-15](#)