

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.

November 11, 2015

Week 46

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- [South American blueberry season starts slowly](#) (11/11, *The Packer*)
- [Serbian IQF Raspberry & Blackberry Industry video](#) (9/29/12, *Corps & Partners*) A few years old but insightful.
- [If GMO's aren't the problem with our food system, then what is?](#) (11/8, *Washington Post*)
- [New bill seeks to expand USDA's fresh produce to frozen, canned varieties](#) (11/6, *Produce News*)

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

Time for the annual statistics issue! Oh boy, numbers! Makes me want to be standing out in the middle of a field somewhere.



I'd probably feel better about compiling all these numbers if we had a better regional infrastructure for collecting and distributing 'facts' on our berry production. It also would make good business sense. To any perspective customers knowing what will be available (or not) is critical to their planning and buying decisions.

That said, much thanks to Pat Moore and the berry commissions for sharing excellent data in their specific areas.

But wouldn't it be nice to be able to better forecast crop production and have reliable acreage figures?

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](#)

NW Blackberry, Raspberry & Strawberry Crop Statistics 2015

(along with some blueberry stats in the USDA NASS Data)

Comments on Data Sources

As always, the devil's in the details. As stated, our regional growers could definitely benefit from better coordinated and more reliable sources of crop information. For now these are the best I know of. Let me know if there are other options out there. TP

• Plant Sale Compilations

- **Strength:** Based on a well-established protocols. Voluntary reporting from the limited number of major wholesale plant suppliers and compiled by Dr. Pat Moore, WSU plant breeder. Our most reliable source of caneberry and strawberry cultivar planting trends as well as a great indicator of number of acres of each cultivar that's being planted each year.
- **Weakness:** Covers strawberries, raspberries and blackberries not blueberries. Sure wish we had blueberries...
- **Weakness:** Doesn't account for cultivars that are propagated on farm. Marionberry blackberries are the prime example where many acres planted would not be represented here.

• Oregon and Washington Commissions & B.C. Councils

- **Strength:** These are based on mandatory processor and grower reports for paying assessments. They are definitely not inflated and are an excellent indicator of processed production.
- **Weakness:** Fresh market and local sales are likely to be under reported since there usually isn't third party handling and reporting. No way to easily trace and verify these sales.
- **Weakness:** Oregon is the only state/province with a commission that collects assessments/statistics on blackberry production. No industry generated data exists for blackberries in Washington and B.C.

• USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)

- **Strength:** The official compiled figures for U.S. production and our only source of acreage figures for all our major berry crops.
- **Strength:** Gives us a third source of information for comparing to commission and plant sale information.
- **Weakness:** Based on voluntary survey responses. Overall trends are probably more useful than depending on actual figure accuracy. There are some questionable numbers in here but no way to check their accuracy or correct them.
- **Weakness:** NASS has gone through budget reductions and structural reorganization over the last few years. It has fewer resources and people to devote to its mission especially for smaller specialty crops like berries.
- **Weakness:** Doesn't cover British Columbia.

2015 Raspberry, Blackberry and Strawberry Plant Sale Numbers

Thanks to Dr. Pat Moore, WSU raspberry and strawberry breeder for compiling these numbers each year. Thanks also to all the participating nurseries for sharing this information: [Lassen Canyon](#), [Norcal](#), [Nourse Farms](#), [North American Plants](#), [Northwest Plant Company](#) and [Spooner Farms](#).

- [Raspberries](#)
- [Blackberries](#)
- [Strawberries](#)
- [Black raspberries \(Blackcaps\)](#)

2015 NW Berry Production Figures from Commissions & Councils

Haven't gotten up to date figures in for all crops yet, but here's what I've got so far. TP

Red raspberries—Washington State (in millions of pounds)

Figures from the Washington Red Raspberry Commission

<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
52.8	62.7	68.3	62.7	72.3	59.8

The 27.2% decrease in 2015 was due mostly to much above normal temperatures during harvest.

Red raspberries—Oregon (in millions of pounds)

Figures from the Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission. Will have 2015 figures in December

<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
NA	3.7	4.7	5.8	5.0	3.1

Red raspberries—British Columbia (in millions of pounds)

Figures from the B.C. Raspberry Industry Development Council.

<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
NA	16.0*	16.0*	18.0*	22.5	20.4

* Estimates

All Oregon Raspberries, Blackberries & Blackcaps (in millions of pounds)

Figures from the Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission

Note: Oregon is the only state/province with a commission that collects assessments/statistics on blackberry & blackcap production. No industry generated data exists for these in Washington and B.C.

Comment: At this point in previous years, most processors had reported their production figures. This year has been different with a large number not yet reporting, so we have no 2015 preliminary figures to report. They'll be available soon

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
Blackberries						
o Marionberry	NA	15.9	26.5	24.7	25.9	18.1
o Kotata	NA	5.5	5.5	4.9	3.8	3.2
o Black Diamond	NA	4.9	4.0	2.6	2.6	(included in 'others')
o Silvan	NA	3.6	7.4	6.9	6.1	5.9
o Evergreen	NA	3.1	2.6	4.0	2.5	4.4
o Chester	NA	2.5	1.5	2.5	2.0	3.1
o Obsidian	NA	0.8	(included in 'others')	----	----	----
Raspberries						
o Red raspberry	NA	3.8	4.5	5.8	5.0	4.1
o Black raspberry	NA	3.4	2.9	2.4	2.1	1.5
Boysenberries	NA	2.2	2.0	1.9	2.4	1.9
Other Caneberries	NA	5.4	5.9	3.8	4.1	4.7
Oregon Total	<u>2015</u> NA	<u>2014</u> 51.2	<u>2013</u> 62.8	<u>2012</u> 59.3	<u>2011</u> 56.4	<u>2010</u> 46.9

Strawberries—Oregon (in millions of pounds)

Figures from the Oregon Strawberry Commission report 9/23/15. These numbers are preliminary, there could be some revisions.

<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
14.3	13.1	14.1	17.7	20.3	20.7	19.2

USDA National Agricultural Statistics for NW Berry Crops

Excerpted from the report posted on 7/21/15. [Go here](#) for the full report. Figures are for 2012-2014.

- As mentioned above, these figures come from voluntary returns of grower surveys. Keep that in mind.
- Some of these numbers just don't make sense but they are our 'official statistics' and have value in comparison with the other information and in seeing some overall trends.
- They also illustrate the point that we're in great need of better methods for collecting and reporting our regional berry statistics.

Blueberry

Acres harvested	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
· Oregon	9,000	9,600	8,400
· Washington	9,100	9,000	8,000
· United States	84,150	81,040	76,400
Yield per acre (in pounds)	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
· Oregon	9,700	9,320	8,570
· Washington	10,400	9,070	8,750
· United States	6,690	6,460	5,970

Red Raspberry

Acres harvested	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
· Oregon	2,200	2,300	2,400
· Washington	9,850	9,900	9,800
· United States	19,750	18,600	17,400
Yield per acre (in pounds)	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
· Oregon	3,620	4,120	5,080
· Washington	7,480	6,880	6,400

Strawberry

Acres harvested	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
· Oregon	1,700	1,700	2,000
· Washington	1,100	1,100	1,300
· United States	59,895	60,410	8,310

Blackberry (only Oregon reporting)

Acres harvested	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
· Oregon			
○ Marionberry	3,100	3,200	3,200
○ Evergreen	400	400	400
○ Other	2,600	2,400	2,400
○ All	6,100	6,000	6,000
Yield per acre (in pounds)	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
· Oregon			
○ Marionberry	5,400	8,500	7,800
○ Evergreen	8,080	7,300	9,950
○ Other	9,650	8,710	9,730
All	7,390	8,500	8,710

NW Berry Commission Requests for Research Proposals

- **Washington Red Raspberry Commission**
 - [Go here](#) for the Request for Proposals & Research Priority List
 - **December 15** - *Deadline for Final Reports for 2015 projects & for submission to WRRRC for 2016 proposals. (If you send your proposals through WSU, check with them on the deadline.)*
- **Washington Blueberry Commission**
 - [Go here](#) for the Request for Proposals & Research Priority List
 - **December 1** - *Deadline for submission to WBC for 2016 proposals.*
- **Oregon Blueberry Commission**
 - [Go here](#) for the Request for Proposals & Research Priority List
 - **December 1 (10 am)** - *Deadline for submission to WBC for 2016 proposals.*
- **Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission**
 - [Go here](#) for the Request for Proposals & Research Priority List.
 - **January 4** - *Deadline for submission to ORBC for 2016 proposals.*
- **Oregon Strawberry Commission**
 - [Go here](#) for the Request for Proposals & Research Priority List.
 - **January 4** - *Deadline for submission to ORBC for 2016 proposals.*



Sandhill cranes over a SW Washington raspberry field

Photo by Tom Peerbolt

Grower Resources—Research

- [Strawberry Sustainability Initiative e-book](#) just released. 26 projects in 13 states on ways to improve 'sustainable' strawberry production. Pretty interesting.
- **Upcoming Extension Webinar: December 16 at 1 pm:** "Nitrogen management in organic strawberries: challenges and approaches". [Go here](#) to register and for more information.
- [Mummyberry of Highbush Blueberries in Northwest Washington](#) An article by WSU plant pathologist, Tobin Peever, in the recent issue of *Whatcom Ag Monthly*
- [Seasonal Variation in Blueberry Leaf Nutrient Concentration in Conventional and Organic Production Systems](#) (HortScience, 2015- Bernadine Strik and Amanda Vance, authors) There's a lot of very useful information in this recently published article.

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 generated from data from the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service. Hosted by the California Strawberry Commission.
- [Market Report from General Produce](#) – Week 45 (11/9)
- **New Link:** [Weekly Chilean Blueberry Committee Crop & Exports Report](#)
- [USDA Market News \(Fruits & Vegetables\)](#)

Magazine/website compilations

- **New Link:** **Fresh Plaza:** [fruit](#)
- **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: (10/30) Broad mites in blackberry** 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.

Weather/Climate

- [Storm brings long for rain to Bay Area, snow to mountains](#) (11/10, Capital Press)

Labor

- [Washington state details how to pay workers for rest periods](#) (11/4, Fruit Grower News)

Pollinators

- [Managed bees spread and intensify diseases in wild bees](#) (11/9, Ag Professional)

Organics

- [Organic numbers up, but headwinds still plague industry](#) (11/6, The Packer)
- [Federal advisory board approves Organic Trade Association petitions to tighten and improve organic standards](#) (11/2, PR Newswire)

Business

- [Naturipe remains 'cutting edge' in ready-to-eat, new berry varieties](#) (11/9, Fresh Fruit Portal)

Technology

- [The orchard of the future: Higher densities, more automation](#) (11/2, Fruit Grower News) *These same trends will most likely be mirrored in berry crops.*

Pesticides

- [EPA proposes to ban Chlorpyrifos](#) (11/3, Growing Produce)
- [Bee scientist says he was punished for negative report on neonicotinoids](#) (11/3, Growing Produce)
- [Dow AgroSciences statement concerning EPA's announcement](#) (10/30, Dow Website)

West

- California: [Strawberry acreage expensive but worth it, report finds](#) (10/27, The Packer)
- [Northwest farmers fear port labor disputes](#) (11/6, Fresh Plaza)

North America

- Florida: [Strong early demand expected for strawberries](#) (11/5, The Packer)

International

- Chile: [Chilean blueberry growers could produce as much as 220.5 million pounds this season](#) (11/4, Chilean Blueberry Committee)
- Chile: [Blueberry volumes to grow from Chile](#) (11/9, Chilean Blueberry Committee)
- [South American blueberry season starts slowly](#) (11/11, The Packer)
- Argentina: [Rain affects Argentinean blueberry shipments](#) (11/11, Fresh Plaza)

- Argentina: [Argentine blueberry industry to receive Chinese inspectors](#) (11/9, Fresh Fruit Portal)

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

Regional Commission/Council meeting schedules

- **New Posting: November 12 — Washington Blueberry Commission** ~ 11 AM at the Yakima Valley Museum, 2105 Tieton Drive, Yakima. For information: aschreib@centurytel.net/509-266-4300.
- **December 2—Washington Red Raspberry Commission** ~ at the [Washington Small Fruit Conference](#), Lynden, WA. Contact: henry@red-raspberry.org. [Go here](#) for the details.
- **December 16 — Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission Annual meeting** ~ Wellspring Medical Center, Woodburn. [Go here](#) for the agenda and other details. Contact: berries@oregon-berries.com
- **New Posting: January 11 — Oregon Strawberry Commission** ~ Research Meeting 11, Regular meeting noon, McMenamins Restaurant - 310 NE Evans St, McMinnville. Details TBA Contact: berries@oregon-berries.com
- **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

- **November 13—BC Blueberry Commission Fall Grower Meeting** ~ 2:30-4:30 at Krause Berry Farms, Langley. [Go here](#) for details. Contact: info@bcblueberry.com; 604-864-2117.
- **December 1 — Northwest Center for Small Fruits Research Conference** ~ at the Monarch Hotel, Portland. [Go here](#) for details. Contact: berries@oregon-berries.com
- **December 2-4 — Washington Small Fruit Conference** ~ at the NW Washington Fairgrounds, Lynden, WA. [Go here](#) for more information and to register.
- **January 11-12 — PNW Pest Management Meetings/75th Annual Pacific Northwest Insect Management Conference** ~ At the Hilton Hotel, 921 SW 6th Ave, Portland, OR 97204. Proceedings from the previous years can be viewed [here](#). Details to follow.
- **January 12 — Washington Blueberry Workshop** ~ at Central Washington University (Sue Lombard Hall), Ellensburg. WSU Extension & the Washington Blueberry Commission, [Go here](#) for the details & registration links. Information: [Lisa Devetter](mailto:Lisa.Devetter); 360-848-6124.
- **January 12-14 — North Willamette Horticulture Society (12-Organic Crops section; 13-Vegetable Section; 14-Berry Section)** ~ Clackamas County Event Center, Canby, OR. Details available soon on the [event website](#).
- **January 25 — Oregon Blueberry Conference** ~ at the Red Lion on the River, Jantzen Beach, Portland. [Go here](#) for the event's website. [Go here](#) for sponsorship information.
- **New Posting: January 28-30 — Horticulture Growers Short Course at the Pacific Agriculture Show, Tradex, Abbotsford, BC.** [Go here](#) for further information. Program and on-line registration to come.
- **March 9 — 11th Annual Production Workshop for Commercial Raspberry & Blackberry Growers** ~ Wellspring Conference Center, 1475 Mt. Hood Ave., Woodburn. Details TBA.

National & International Berry Events

- **New Posting: March 2-4 — North American Blueberry Council & US Highbush Blueberry Council Spring meetings** ~ Dallas, Texas. Details TBA. [U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council website](#).
- **March 2-4 — 2016 North American Raspberry & Blackberry Conference** ~ Williamsburg, Virginia. [Go here](#) for all the details.

Archived Small Fruit Updates

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

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