

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 25, 2015

Week 48

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- Asia: [Demand for blueberries grows in Asia](#) (11/20, *Fresh Plaza*)
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[The Weather Cafe](#) by Rufus La Lone [Small Fruit Cold Storage report](#)



New raspberry selection being evaluated in large machine harvested trial 7-17-14.

Accelerating the Development of Improved Raspberry and Blackberry Commercial Varieties

The Washington Red Raspberry Commission and the Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission have

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](#)

funded my company to establish onfarm trials of the most promising selections for processing raspberries and blackberries that are coming out of our public breeding programs.

The raspberry trials started in 2012 and the blackberry trials in 2013. So we're now far enough along to have some initial harvests of the first trials and are getting some decent feedback.

Some of that information is included in this newsletter. A few relevant facts:

- All of these selections are machine harvestable.
- All have been through small scale trials. When they're selected for this program, they're put in full row trials of 100-250 plants each so we can get enough fruit to run a machine over and through a processing line.
- We try to put in 3-5 trials of each selection in locations across the region; on differing soil types and under differing grower cultural practices.
- We are cooperating with British Columbia researchers and industry and they are in the process of developing a similar program.

I've also included a reference sections with the contact information of our major wholesale nursery plant sources. If you're interested in setting up your own onfarm trials you can get the details from them.

Tom Peerbolt, SFU Editor

New raspberry selection being evaluated in large machine harvested trial 7-17-14.



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.
- **New Posting: Washington Strawberry Commission**
 - From [Walter Swenson](#), the commission's manager: "Unless I hear otherwise from the board members, our annual meeting date is December 8, 10:00 a.m. at WSU Puyallup. Submit...progress reports and proposals to Andrew Mack (armack@wsu.edu). Will need those for review prior to the meeting."
- **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.

Grower Resources

Harvesters

- [Ag Harvesters](#) *Blueberry machine harvester manufacturer in Michigan.*
- [BlueLine Berry Harvester](#) *Manufacturer in Eastern Washington. [Here's a video](#)..*
- [Hydraulic system helps reduce harvest loss by up to 50%](#) (11/12, Mobile Hydraulics)

Pest Management

- [Bee Vectoring Technologies on the brink of revolutionizing the ag sector](#) (11/19, Ag Professional)
- [Michigan State University researchers to study non-spray pest management](#) (11/17, Growing Produce)

Pollinators/Neonicotinoids

- [First direct evidence of impact of pesticide \(*neonicotinoid*\) on bee pollination](#) (11/18, New Scientist)
- [French study claims “missing link” in pesticide \(*neonicotinoid*\) effects on bees](#) (11/19, Fresh Fruit Portal)
- [Pesticide makers point to other culprits in bee die-offs](#) (11/23, Capital Press)

Organics

- [Organic farming transition manual available](#) (11/16, Growing Produce)

Wholesale Raspberry, Blackberry & Strawberry Nurseries

Not all of these sources will have cultivars and/or selections identified in this newsletter below. Check for availability. Advanced selections not yet named will be available only in limited numbers. The sooner you contact the nursery the more likely you'll be able to get what you want.

- [North American Plants, Inc.](#), McMinnville, OR
Suppliers of blackberry, raspberry and blueberry tissue culture plants. Along with regular commercial orders for named cultivars, they can supply a limited number of plants of many of the advanced selections mentioned above for on-farm trials on request.
- [Northwest Plant Company](#), Lynden, WA
Suppliers of raspberry tissue culture and root stock plants and blackberry tissue culture plants. Along with regular commercial orders for named cultivars, they can supply a limited number of plants of many of the advanced selections mentioned above for on-farm trials on request.
- [Lassen Canyon Nursery](#), Manteca, CA
Suppliers of raspberry and blackberry tissue culture and root stock plants. Along with regular commercial orders for named cultivars, they can supply a limited number of plants of many of the advanced selections mentioned below for on-farm trials on request.
Lassen Canyon Nursery also is a major commercial supplier of both June bearing and Day-neutral strawberries.
- [Sakuma Brothers](#), Mt. Vernon, WA / [NORCAL Nursery](#), Red Bluff, CA
Suppliers of raspberry root stock plants.
NORCAL Nursery also is a major commercial supplier of both June bearing and Day-neutral strawberries.

Other Nursery Sources of Named Cultivars

- [Nourse Farms](#)
Suppliers of all berries. Nourse Farms, based in Massachusetts but also has operations in Washington State. They have a very extensive availability list with many fresh market caneberry cultivars available from small to very large numbers.
- [Spooner Farms](#), Puyallup, WA
Suppliers of wholesale raspberry and strawberry root stock plants.

Raspberry and Blackberry Onfarm Variety Trial Update

All comments below are my own—don't take them as anything other than my opinion. TP

Raspberries—These are the ones that we have the most trial information on right now

We started the processed raspberry trials in 2012, a year ahead of the blackberry trials. So we've got a little more information on them.



All pictures taken on 7-6-15 in plantings on the same farm in northern Washington. Wakefield is included for comparison.

- **Rudi** (Year planted: 2012) Produces a very early crop (before Willamette). Harvest period is very concentrated. Good yields of fruit with IQF potential. Berry size is average. Seems to have a tendency to mold especially since its early and has very heavy picks. Doesn't seem to have any more root rot resistance than other available cultivars. Have enough plantings in the ground and realistic evaluation of its potential. Don't need more. Quite a lot of acres in the ground in B.C.
- **Cascade Harvest** (2012) It's showing susceptibility to root rot on heavier sites. Disappointing

since we had better expectations for good resistance given it's parents. Need to continue observing the trials already in the ground for at least a couple more years to get a better reading on how much root rot resistance it has compared to standards. Fruit quality and yields look excellent. Plenty of commercial plantings now in for observation also. I'd discourage growers from planting on heavier soils.

- **WSU 1912** (2012) Showing good root rot resistance, good fruit flavor and appearance. But berry size is small and it produces fall fruit (this takes away from the summer crop potential). A sibling of WSU 1912, WSU 1914 has larger size fruit in the small trials. We'll probably trial it in 2016 as well as continuing observations on WSU 1912. Overall yields are still a question on WSU 1914.
- **WSU 1948** (2012) Good root rot resistance and decent yields by the look of it so far. Main drawback is poor flavor. Will observe trials in the ground for another year but most likely not going to go any further with it.
- **Lewis** (2013) Had three larger onfarm trials all die out in Northern Washington in the first year after planting. I was thinking possible problem could be with planting stock and it might need a couple more trials to fully evaluate whether it's as susceptible to root rot as it presently appears. I just haven't seen any plantings that would contradict that it's pretty susceptible. Am inclined at this point to not do more trials. Some growers have planted it. Probably just keep an eye on those.
- **Squamish (BC 92-9-15)** (2013) We put in a couple trials last year. One of which was on a heavy site and died out. There's a fair amount being planted in B.C. I'm inclined to not put in any more of it in this trial program and rely on feedback from the B.C. growers.
- **WSU 1980** (2014)—Went down to apparent root rot in one trial. Also reported to have crumbly fruit virus symptoms in first year of harvest. Not planning on any further trials.

We've got some smaller trials of the following three selections in the ground that are just a year old but didn't have adequate plant numbers available in 2014. So they're being included for more trials in 2016.

- **WSU 2122** (2014) Small trial evaluation: Good color, thick walled, later season.
- **WSU 2166** (2014) Small trial evaluation: Good color, thick walled, not as late as WSU 2122.
- **WSU 2188** (2014) Small trial evaluation: Good color, thick walled, large fruit size.

Raspberry--Present Plans for 2016 Season

These are some of the selections we want to put into grower trials this coming season.



WSU 1914



WSU 2166



WSU 2188

- **WSU 2122/WSU 2166/WSU 2188** As stated above, we've got some trials of these put in 2014 that are just a year old but didn't have adequate plant numbers. So they're being included for more trials in 2016.
- **WSU 1914** This is a sibling of WSU 1912 that we've had in the trials planted in 2012. WSU 1912

is showing good root rot resistance, good fruit flavor and appearance. However berry size is too small and it produces significant fall fruit. WSU 1914 has a larger size fruit in the small trials in Oregon and Northern Washington.

- (Maybe 2017) **WSU 1962** High yielding in one machine harvested trial. Dark fruit of high quality.
- (Maybe 2017) **WSU 2010** Very high yielding in some small trials.
- (Maybe 2017) **WSU 2162** Late season, excellent fruit quality & flavor.

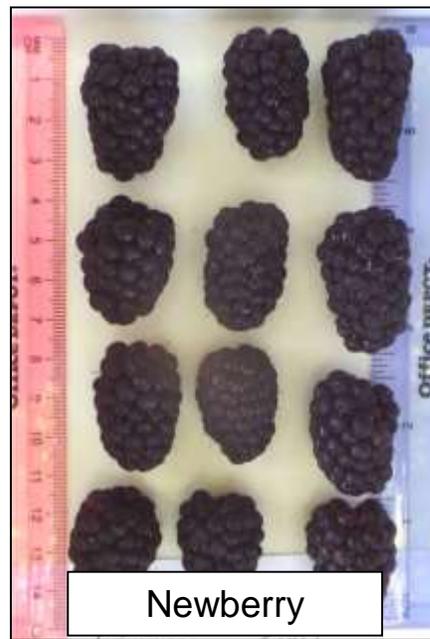
Blackberries—These are the ones that we have the most trial information on right now



Columbia Star



ORUS 2707-1



Newberry

All pictures taken on 6-26-15 in plantings on the same farm in the northern Willamette Valley. Black Diamond is included for comparison.



Black Diamond

- **Columbia Star** (ORUS 3447-1) (Planted in 2013) Fruit quality is great. Could be a dual use berry (both processed and fresh). Overall yield potential remains the major question to answer. As far as trials go, we have enough plantings to realistic evaluation of its potential. Don't need more onfarm trials. It's being planted so much commercially that we're going to know all we need to very soon.
- **ORUS 2707-1** (2013) Large, very sweet fruit but didn't hold up at all to this season's hot weather conditions. Problems with softness, sunburn. Will continue evaluation another year or two. Right now it doesn't seem very promising.
- **Newberry** (2013) Fruit is good. Nice unique flavor. Yields and machine harvestability are good. But it doesn't have a market. Not sure there's a reason to continue evaluations for Northwest processed blackberry growers. I hope it finds a market niche. I like it but....processors and these machine harvest growers don't presently have a use for it.

- **ORUS 3172-1** (2014) Looks good for fruit, yields, etc but it's early in evaluations. Hard sell right now because it's later the Marion/Black Diamond. Growers don't have much interest in this window presently. I think this could change and want to continue looking at it but don't need more onfarm trials right now.

Blackberries--Present Plans for 2016 Season

These are the selections we want to put into grower trials this coming season.

- **ORUS 4057-3** Extremely early. 7-10 days before Black Diamond. Need to accelerate development/evaluation. This one could find a profitable grower niche.
- **ORUS 3453-2** Large fruit. Always sweet. Good yields. Similar season to Marion.
- **ORUS 3448-2** Hopefully can get enough plants for trial. It shares some things with ORUS 4057-3... early, high yielding, thornless, sweet. It shares a parent with Columbia Star

Commission News

- **Oregon Blueberry Commission:** [The 2016 Oregon Blueberry Conference](#)
- **Washington Red Raspberry Commission & National Processed Raspberry Council:** [Invitation to meeting at the 2015 Small Fruits Conference](#)
- **Washington Blueberry Commission:** [Information on the Washington Small Fruit Conference and the Washington Blueberry School meeting](#)
- **Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission:** [ORBC Annual meeting information](#)

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 47 (11/23)
- [Weekly Chilean Blueberry Committee Crop & Exports Report](#)
- [USDA Market News \(Fruits & Vegetables\)](#)

Magazine/website compilations

- **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. **Recent Entry:** (11/11) **SWD Beware** *Reports on issues in blackberries and raspberries from the Southeast.*

Weather/Climate

- [First ten months set stage for warmest year on record](#) (11/19, The Produce News)
- California: [Historically strong El Nino may only last a season, forecasters say](#) (11/16, Capital Press)

- [Warm winter ahead? Polar vortex says maybe not](#) (11/19, Ag Professional)

Water

- [WOTUS \(Waters of the U.S.\) guidance would result in continued confusion, chaos](#) (11/18, Ag Professional)
- Oregon: [Water demand to grow by 15 percent by 2050](#) (11/22, Capital Press)

Business

- All Fresh export company article: [Year round blueberries from all over the world](#) (11/19, Fresh Plaza)
- LBP Rotterdam company article: [“Responding flexibly to European market with blueberry packing line”](#) (11/13, Fresh Plaza)

Food Safety

- [Free webinars will discuss latest FSMA final rules](#) (11/19, Fruit Grower News) *That's the Food Safety Modernization Act.*

West

- California: [Tight strawberry supplies to continue into December](#) (11/12, Fresh Plaza)

North America

- [North American Raspberry and Blackberry conference slated for early March](#) (11/16, Growing Produce)

International

- [Trans Pacific Partnership and Japan: Key outcomes for agriculture](#) (11/20, Ag Professional)
- Mexico: [Berries Paradise to double China-bound exports this season](#) (11/19, Fresh Fruit Plaza)

South America

- Argentina: [Blueberry season to end](#) (11/19, Fresh Plaza)
- Argentina: [Blueberry association combating fruit fly](#) (11/11, Fresh Plaza)
- Chile: [Blueberries affected by deadly plague](#) (11/23, Fresh Plaza)
- Chile: [Blueberry imports from Chile delayed](#) (11/19, Fresh Plaza)
- Chile: [Medfly found in Chilean capital](#) (11/20, Fresh Fruit Plaza)
- Chile: [Raspberry producers innovate in the Maule region](#) (11/23, Fresh Plaza)
- Peru: [Peru tests blueberry varieties for Biloxi alternative](#) (11/19, Fresh Fruit Portal)
- Peru: [Peru to allocate 30,000 hectares of berries for export in 2021](#) (11/17, Fresh Plaza)

Europe

- Spain: [Huelva's strawberries finding their place in Asia](#) (11/20, Fresh Plaza)
- Georgia: [Berry sector promising for Georgian farmers](#) (11/19, Fruit-inform)
- Poland: [Increase in Polish frozen fruit exports compared to 2014](#) (11/6, Fresh Plaza)

Asia

- China: [Increase in blueberry acreage](#) (11/24, Fresh Plaza)



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

Regional Commission/Council meeting schedules

- **December 2—Washington Red Raspberry Commission** ~ at the [Washington Small Fruit Conference](#), Lynden, WA. Contact: henry@red-raspberry.org. [Go here](#) for the details.
- **New Posting: December 8—Washington Strawberry Commission** ~ 10 am at the [WSU Puyallup Research and Extension Center](#), Puyallup. Contact: Walter Swenson (walterswenson@msn.com), the commission's manager.
- **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
- **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

- **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. [Go here](#) to register online. Proceedings from the previous years can be viewed [here](#).
- **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@cwu.edu); 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.
- **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

- **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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[42-SFU10-16-15](#)