

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 The Northwest Berry Foundation and is funded entirely by the Northwest berry growers and industry through their commissions and councils.



# Small Fruit Update

September 7, 2016 / Week 36

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## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

- [Argentina blueberries off to early start](#) (9/6, The Packer)
- [Blueberries: New developments add efficiencies to import process](#) (9/3, The Packer)
- [Chile rebuilding raspberry business with food safety strategy](#) (9/2, Food Safety News)
- [Could irradiation protocols give Aussie exports a competitive edge?](#) (9/2, Fresh Fruit Portal)
- [The strange, twisted story behind our wild blackberries](#) (8/29, KUOW)
- [How it's Made: Blueberries](#) (8/30, YouTube) 5 minute video from the "How it's Made" TV series on blueberry processing—It's pretty good. It aired on 8/30/16.

## SPONSORS

[Washington Red Raspberry Commission](#)

[Washington Blueberry Commission](#)

[Washington Strawberry Commission](#)

[Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission](#)

[Oregon Blueberry Commission](#)

[Oregon Strawberry Commission](#)

[B.C. Strawberry Growers Association](#)

[Raspberry Industry Development Council](#)

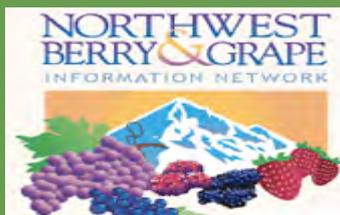
[B.C. Blueberry Council](#)

[North American Blueberry Council](#)



### THE WEATHER CAFE

Rufus La Lone's uniquely informative long-range, Pacific Northwest forecasts.



### COLD STORAGE REPORTS

Cold storage trends compiled from the USDA-NASS Monthly Cold Storage Reports by Rufus La Lone.



### MEETINGS & EVENTS

Plan your schedule for the coming months with our list of berry industry meetings & events.



## EDITOR'S NOTE

Tom Peerbolt, SFU Editor

- The big majority of the Northwest berry crop harvest is finished. However, harvest continues on some late season blueberries and blackberries as well as late season fresh market cultivars in strawberries, blackberries, raspberries and blueberries
- It's been a strange season from both the weather and market points of view. It'll make for a lot of discussion/adjustments in the off-season.

### **A few preliminary 'editorial' comments—**

- The earliest start to harvest ever beating 2015's record early start. The recent volatile weather patterns leave me feeling pretty uneasy about making plans/predictions about next year.
- There's a lot of northwest berry growers who have had a hard year with poor returns, especially in commercial blueberries and blackberries.
- Poor returns in any business means re-evaluating what you're doing. It's a big problem for high value/high input/high establishment cost perennial crops. Can't change these crops quickly or inexpensively.
- This type of situation tends to favor larger, well diversified, vertically integrated operations as well as diversified local fresh market growers dealing with direct sales.
- It's hardest on independent commercial growers relying on a very limited number of potential processor/broker wholesale buyers for their fruit sales.
- As with the volatile weather lately, the volatile markets make any short term forecasts suspect.
- However, long term indicators for the Northwest berry industry give reason for optimism:
  - o We have increasing genetic diversity, the foundation for any crop's success, in all the berries—blueberries, raspberries, blackberries and strawberries. New cultivars create improved products, new markets and new efficiencies in production.
  - o We have increasing access to foreign markets, which in the long run will pay off, as well as a growing domestic market. Less expensive berries should make it easier to expand these opportunities.
  - o We have ever increasing health research to support our 'products' as well as increasing customer demand.
  - o We have increasing investments in production research and mechanization methods that hold the promise of lower input costs and increased production efficiencies.
  - o There are also indications of better grower/regional cooperation through organizations like the US Highbush Blueberry Council, the established regional commissions and councils, the Northwest Center for Small Fruits Research, etc.

Maybe it's little naïve but I do believe we're better off pooling resources and working together as much as possible while keeping in mind we're also often competing with each other. You just can't be a farmer, or a consultant, without some (realistic) optimism. Yes...until there isn't, there's always next year.

**Tom Peerbolt**

## GROWER RESOURCES

- [Insecticide efficacy trial for Lygus bug control](#) (9/2, UC Davis Strawberry & Caneberry blog)
- [Japanese beetle infestation found in Portland](#) (8/29, Capital Press)
- [Strawberry Plasticulture Demonstration Video](#) (2 Minutes)

## DEGREE DAY LINKS

- [WSU Extension- Whatcom county](#)
- [Regional Sites updated by Len Coop, Osu-ippc](#)



Ruddy Duck in farm pond, photo by Jason Myer

## BERRY INDUSTRY CALENDAR



If you'd like to add a meeting or event to the calendar, contact the [Northwest Berry Foundation office](#) at 503-285-0908.

**September 7— Washington Red Raspberry Commission meeting** 1-5 pm. Contact [Henry Bierlink](#) for details.

**September 15 — Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission Board meeting** 10am–2pm. Hayden's Lakefront Grill - 8187 SW Tualatin-Sherwood Rd, Tualatin, OR. [Here is the agenda](#). Contact [Philip Gütt](#) for details.

**September 20-22— International Blueberry Organization 2016 Summit**. Concordia, Argentina and Salto, Uruguay. [Go here](#) for more details.

**September 27 — Oregon Blueberry Commission** Noon Chemeketa Events at Winema, Building 48, Room 202 A&B. Contact [Lisa Ostlund](#) for details.

**September 29 — Oregon Strawberry Commission Board meeting** 6pm–9pm. McMenamins Restaurant, 310 NE Evans St., McMinnville, OR. Contact [Philip Gütt](#) for details.

**October 5 — North American Blueberry Council & U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council Fall Meeting** in Philadelphia, PA. [Go here](#) for registration/information.

**October 12-13 — Washington Blueberry and Red Raspberry commissions Research Review** at WSU Mt. Vernon. Details to be announced soon. Contact [Alan Schreiber](#) or [Henry Bierlink](#) for details

**October 26 — Washington Red Raspberry Commission Board meeting** in Lynden WA. Contact [Henry Bierlink](#) for details.

**November 3— Washington Blueberry Commission Board meeting** in Yakima - time and place TBA. Contact [Alan Schreiber](#) or call the office 509-266-4300 for details.

**November 8— Oregon Blueberry Commission** Noon Chemeketa Events at Winema, Building 48, Room 210. Contact [Lisa Ostlund](#) for details.

**November 30–December 2 — Lyden Ag Show / Washington Small Fruit Conference**, [Go here](#) for registration and more information. Contact [Henry Beirlink](#) or [Chris Benedict](#) with questions.

**January 9 — Oregon Blueberry Commission Research Updates/Commission meeting**. Chemeketa Events at Winema, Building 48, Room 210&B. Contact [Lisa Ostlund](#) for details.

**January 16 — Blueberry Conference All day**, Salem Conventtion Center, Salem. Contact [Lisa Ostlund](#) for details.

**March 21 — Oregon Blueberry Commission** Noon (Budget preparation) Chemeketa Events at Winema, Building 48, Room 210. Contact [Lisa Ostlund](#) for details.

**March 28-30 — Berry Health Benefits Symposium 2017**. Pismo Beach, CA. [Go here](#) for more details.

**April 25 — Oregon Blueberry Commission** Noon (Budget hearing) Chemeketa Events at Winema, Building 48, Room 210. Contact [Lisa Ostlund](#) for details.

## REGIONAL REPORTS

### Oregon, Willamette Valley (Tuesday, 9/6)

- **Blueberries:** Harvest is pretty much wrapped up on commercial fields. Still some late season varieties on their last picks. In spite of the cooler, fall like weather the major issues I'm seeing in fields seems to be related to moisture stress. A lot of fields lost there moisture during the August heat and it hasn't been replaced. Some guys depending on the regular watering schedules might benefit from checking the deeper root zones and giving some deep watering.

### Northern Washington, Whatcom County (Tuesday, 9/6)

- **Blueberries:** Rain has all but ended the fresh pick with the late fruit here (mainly Elliott) and even if it was not soft, sizing had become an issue. Barrels from here on. Aphids showing in a number of fields and weed control efforts are in full swing. Dry soils an issue here and many fields look stressed. Not sure of the effect on bushes yet, but it most likely will not help up coming yields.

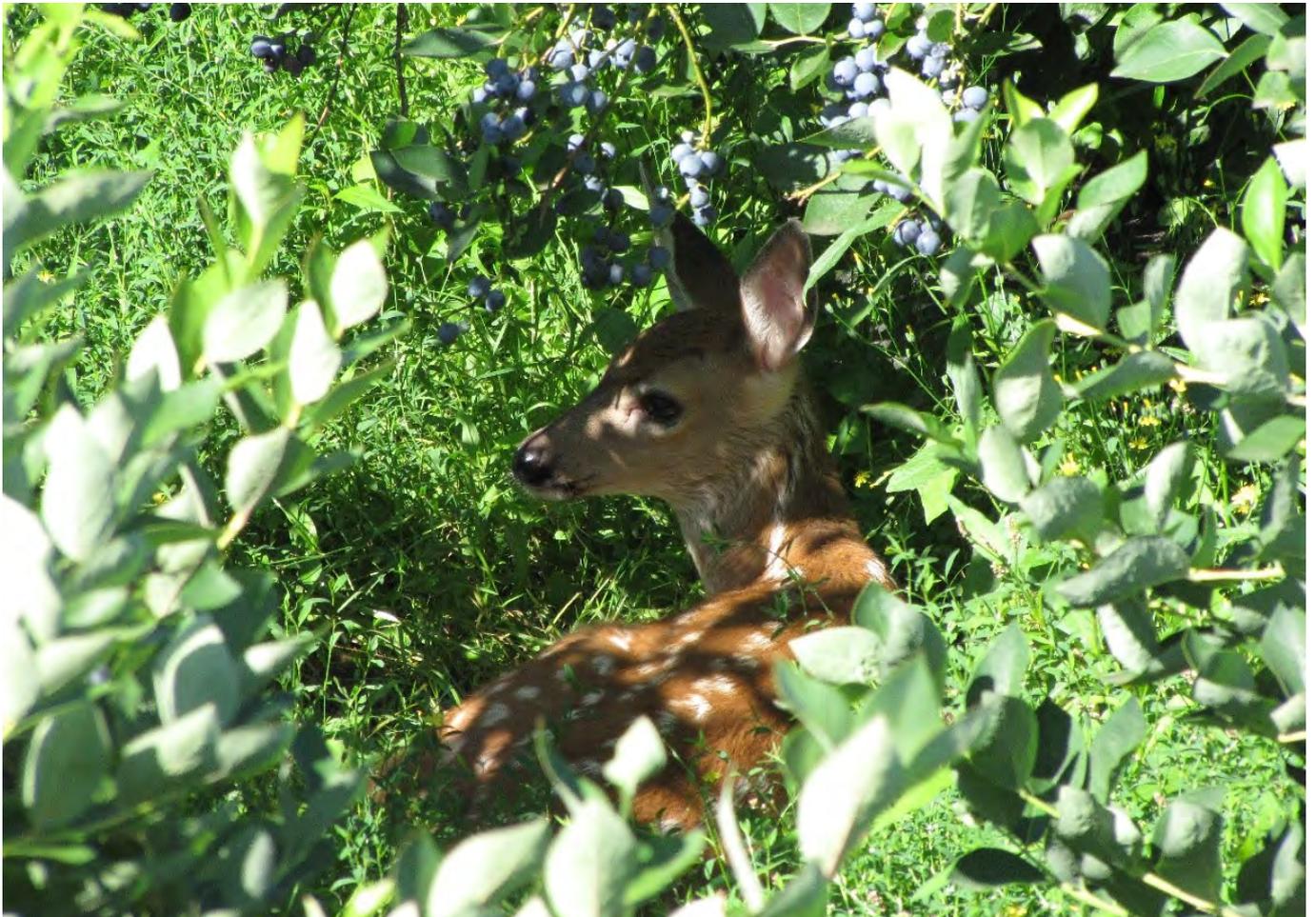
Seems like fall is here! Many trees and deciduous are turning, but many are not the beautiful fall colors of gold, yellows and reds, but instead, they are showing brown. (water stress is best guess). General field clean up and winter prep is underway in many areas. Things are definitely winding down. Time to turn thoughts to family and some down time.

### Northern Washington, Skagit County (Tuesday, 9/6)

- **Blueberries:** The season has mostly ended here in Skagit County, as well. We're watching soil moisture, but conditions seem far from dry after last week's 2.8 inch downfall on Aug. 31. It would be nice if some of that rainfall made it up to Whatcom County (or down to the Willamette valley—TP), especially for growers trying to get their fields fumigated this fall.

### Eastern Washington (Tuesday, 9/6)

- Wrapping up fertigation and foliar sprays, mowing middles. **Harvest is wrapping up this week.**



# Industry news/resources

## NEWS ARTICLES:

### Technology

- **Ag robots and drones may be a \$10 billion market by 2022** (8/31, Growing Produce)
- **New commercial drone rules go into effect** (8/30, us ag net)

### Climate/Water

- **Drought returns to Washington's westside** (8/26, Capital Press)

### Food Safety

- **Chile's raspberry exporters schooled on US food safety** (9/2, Fresh Plaza)
- **Hepatitis A outbreak linked to frozen strawberries spans 5 states; 51 sick** (8/31, Food Safety News)

### Labor

- California: **Farmworker overtime expansion sent to California governor's desk** (8/30, Growing Produce)
- **California farmworkers on edge over historic overtime bill** (8/31, Capital Press)
- California: **Strawberry grower fined for demanding kickbacks from H-2A workers** (9/2, Growing Produce)

### Companies

- **Driscoll's rolls out global berry rebranding campaign** (8/31, Fresh Fruit Portal)
- Oregon: **Marion Ag Service expands fertilizer capacity** (9/2, Capital Press)
- **Potash Corp. and Agrium say they are in talks to merge** (8/30, Modesto Bee)

### The West

- **California strawberry production picks up after a slow start** (9/2, Capital Press)

### North America

- Nova Scotia, wild blueberries: **Producers struggle with low blueberry prices** (9/2, Fresh Plaza)

### International

- Argentina: **Chilling levels favor strong Argentine blueberry crop** (9/2, Fresh Fruit Portal)
- UK: **Slim pickings: Without EU laborers, who'll harvest UK fruit?** (8/31, CBS)
- Peru: **Peruvian blueberry grower made "all the mistakes one could" in new industry** (8/18, Fresh Fruit Portal)
- South Africa: **South African blueberry production is gearing up** (8/23, Agri Orbit)

### BERRY RESEARCH BLOGS

#### Strawberries and Caneberries

by Mark Bolda, UC Davis Berry Extension Agent. Reports on issues from California. *Recent Entry: (8/11) Land stewardship and soilborne pathogens in California strawberry production*

#### Team rubus

By Gina Fernandez, North Carolina State Small Fruit Specialist. Reports on issues in blackberries and raspberries from the Southeast. *Recent Entry: (8/3) Cane blight at end of season?*

### NEWSLETTERS & BERRY REPORTS

#### WhatCom AG Monthly

Produced by WSU Whatcom County Extension. Excellent berry information.

#### National Berry Report

Daily fresh market berry reports generated from data from the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service. Hosted by the California Strawberry Commission.

#### Weekly Market Report from General Produce

#### Weekly Chilean Blueberry Committee Crop & Exports report

#### USDA Market News (Fruits & Vegetables)

### MAGAZINE/ WEBSITE COMPILATIONS

**FRUIT GROWER NEWS:** [blueberries](#), [raspberries and blackberries](#)

**FRESH PLAZA:** [fruit](#)

**THE PACKER:** [blueberries](#), [blackberries](#), [raspberries](#), [strawberries](#).

**GROWING PRODUCE:** [recent berry articles](#).

**FRUIT GROWER NEWS:** [blueberries](#), [raspberries & blackberries](#)

**ANDNOWYOUKNOW.COM:**

[blueberries](#), [blackberries](#), [raspberries](#), [strawberries](#).

**FRESH FRUIT PORTAL:** [blueberries](#), [blackberries](#), [raspberries](#), [strawberries](#).

# Pest Management Information: Week 34

## Diseases

- **Phytophthora Root Rot**, raspberries.
- **Shock virus**, blueberries.
- **Blackberry Rust**, (Phragmidium Rust) Evergreen blackberries.

## Insects/Mites

- **Azalea Bark Scale**, blueberries.
- **Raspberry Beetle**, northern raspberries.
  - Root Weevils, strawberries and blueberries. **Black Vine, Rough Strawberry, Strawberry Root Weevils**.
- **Blueberry Gall Midge**, blueberries.
- Mites in raspberries: **Twospotted mites** and **Yellow mites**.
- **Strawberry Crown Moth** southern strawberries

## CROP WORK

### All crops

- Pay attention to new plantings of all berries for weeds, water, insects, diseases, and nutrient deficiencies.
- Maintain SWD fruit sampling, monitoring and management plan. (**blueberries, raspberries, blackberries, strawberries**)
  - Weed management.
  - Post-harvest—soil and leaf test for evaluation of nutrients.
    1. **OSU's Blueberry Nutrient (and testing) Guidelines**
    2. **OSU's Caneberry Nutrient (and testing) Guidelines.**
  - Post harvest—can treat for SWD management if field is adjacent to vulnerable fruit crop.
  - Scout for Root Weevil adults **Black Vine, Rough Strawberry, Strawberry Root Weevils**.
  - Water management.

### Blueberries

#### Harvest ongoing in a few fields.

- **Bird management**
- Scout for **mummyberry** infected fruit.
- Stay on top of **aphid management** where scorch virus transmission is an issue.
- Scout for **leafroller larvae** and treat as needed.
- Scout for virus symptoms and send in samples for testing as needed (**Shock virus; Scorch virus**).
- Scout for scale insects.
- Scout for weevil notching on leaves and for adult weevils.
- Scout for **azalea bark scale** in southern fields.
- Scout for **blueberry gall midge**

damage.

- Can use pheromone traps to monitor for leafrollers.
- Scout for berry symptoms like green fruit botrytis, hail damage, mummyberry, etc.

### Raspberries

#### Processed harvest finished.

- Scout for cane collapse symptoms & determine cause (**Phytophthora Root Rot, Verticillium, crown borers, overwatering, etc.**)
- Scout for **yellow rust** and assess treatment options.
- Scout for **twospotted mites** and yellow mites.
- Scout for virus symptoms and send in samples for testing as needed.
- Scout for **cane blight** and **cane botrytis symptoms**.
- (North) Scout for **raspberry beetle** feeding symptoms.
- Scout for **aphids** and treat as needed.

#### For late season, fresh market:

- Scout for weevils and treat as needed (**Black Vine, Rough Strawberry, Strawberry Root Weevils**).
- (North) Scout for **Raspberry Fruit-worm** feeding symptoms.
- Scout for virus symptoms and send in samples for testing as needed (**RBDV, TRSV**)
- Scout for **fruit mold** and treat as needed.
- Scout for **Yellow Rust** and assess treatment options.
- Scout for **Two-spotted Mites, Yellow mites** and treat as needed.
- Scout for **aphids** and treat as needed.
- Scout for **leafroller larvae**.

### Blackberries

#### Late season variety harvest ongoing

- Scout for cane collapse symptoms & determine cause (**Phytophthora Root Rot, Verticillium, crown borers, overwatering, etc.**)
- Scout for leafroller larvae and treat as needed to prevent fruit contaminant problems. (**orange Tortrix and oblique Banded**)
- Can apply fungicides for **fruit/blossom rot**.
- Scout for virus symptoms and send in samples for testing as needed.
- Scout for **cane and leaf rust**.
- Watch for fruit molds and treat as needed.
- Scout for and treat as needed **blackberry rust** in Evergreen blackberries.
- Scout for two spotted spider mites and treat as needed in susceptible cultivars.

- Can apply horticultural oil for Red-berry mite management at green fruit stage in susceptible cultivars.

### Strawberries

#### Processed harvest (June bearers) finished throughout region. Fresh market harvest ongoing.

- Evaluate weak growing areas and check plants for weevil larvae, root rot and/or cold damage.
- (South) Can scout for **Strawberry Crown Moth Larvae** ..
- Scout for weevil adults and notching.
- **Processed market-June bearers—finished harvesting**
  - **Weed Control at strawberry renovation** (6/26/12, Michigan State Extension)
    - Mow and treat immediately for **SCM/SWD** if needed.
    - Mow and renovate 2-4 weeks after harvest unless pest pressure require mowing and treating sooner.
    - Apply main fertilizer application as needed.

#### Fresh market—still harvesting

- Scout for Lygus Bugs.
- Scout for fruit quality symptoms like mold (**Botrytis**), cat facing, **slug damage**, anthracnose, etc.
- Can apply slug bait as needed.
- Scout for **Powdery Mildew** and treat as needed.
- Scout for **Twospotted Spider Mites** and predatory, beneficial mites.
- Scout for **aphids**, lady beetles, aphid mummies (parasitized aphids), and other beneficial insects that feed on aphids.



## ARCHIVES

[SFU 31: 8-03-16](#)

[SFU 32: 8-10-16](#)

[SFU 34: 08-24-16](#)

[Older issues here](#)