

Small Fruit Update



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February 17, 2016

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- [Scientific study review reveals health promoting potential of red raspberries](#) (2/10, EurekAlert)
 - [U.S. produce import growth continues in 2015](#) (2/10, The Packer)
Category with the highest increase is berries (excluding strawberries).
 - Fresh Strawberries: [Fronteras variety fuels hope for better yields](#) (2/16, The Packer)
 - **New Meeting Posting: April 10-14 — XI International Vaccinium Symposium** ~ Orland, FL. [Go here](#) for details.
- [The Weather Cafe](#) by Rufus La Lone [Small Fruit Cold Storage report](#)

Upcoming workshops for growers

- **February 18 — Oregon Strawberry Commission Annual Meeting** ~ at North Willamette Research & Extension Station, 9 am to 1 pm. [Go here](#) for all the details. For more information call Philip Gutt (541-758-4043) or [email](#).
- **March 9 — 11th Annual Production Workshop for Commercial Raspberry & Blackberry Growers**
 - 8-4 pm at the Wellspring Conference Center in the Silverton Health Building, 1475 Mt. Hood Ave., Woodburn.
 - [Go here](#) for the draft agenda.
 - **Please RSVP if you plan on coming. It's free but space and food are limited. Call 503-289-7287 or email anna@peerbolt.com**

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 (Monday, 2/15)

- Pretty wet here in the Fraser Valley the last 4 or 5 days. Had a real warm spell for a couple days at the beginning of last week (8-9th) where temps got up to 14-16 C (57-60F). That gave a little push to things. But we're not at the same point we were last season which is good. Some pruning still going on in blues and even raspberries. We're not there yet for mummyberry sprays but from now on we'll be watching for developments. Some herbicide work going on in all berries but not full bore yet. Raspberries are still pretty tight except for 1st year plantings which are opening up. Air and soil temps are considerably off what we experienced all last February which is a bit of a relief. See what the next 7-10 days brings us.

British Columbia, Fraser Valley (Tuesday, 2/16)

- Last night it rained hard again. Many of the fields haven't been accessible for much other than pruning which will continue in diminishing amounts over the next couple weeks. It's looking like some nicer weather coming next week but it will take a while for the water to recede from a lot of the fields. Some lime sulphur and dormant oil went on during the last dry spell early last week. Minimal amounts of pre-emerge herbicides have gone on at this point which is a good thing given the rain we have recently had. Some definite swelling of buds especially in weaker plants and I noticed the odd cracked bud here and there in a Bluecrop planting. I don't think we are too far away from plants really starting to move but hoping that mother nature holds off a while longer before pushing the plants to start growing. I definitely agree with your comment about it being nice to have a snowpack this year!

Northern Washington, Whatcom County (Monday, 2/15)

- As sufficient chilling was reached earlier this year, the warmer temps have really brought things along. The last ten days have pushed blueberry buds into movement and some are at stage two already. (*Editors note: Stage 2 = Bud swell. [Go here](#) for blueberry bud stage chart*). Most pruning is finished, and I hope all got cover sprays on to help with disease pressure. Next dry spell will see the balance of herbicide work done, I am sure.

We are happy to see reservoirs filling, unlike last year which was sooooo dry. Things are ahead of "normal". Not as early as last year, but still earlier than preferred.

Raspberries have popped as well, with stressed fields further along, as you would expect.

Other than that, the ditches are full and the pumps are running. Thank goodness for hot coco!

Eastern Washington (Friday, 2/12)

- **Blueberry** pruning and copper applications wrapping up, beginning herbicide appl. Bud swell looks similar to last year, and temps may be in the sixties next week.

Western Oregon, Willamette Valley (Monday, 2/15)

- Blueberry buds are swelling in Willamette valley fields—[Below are photos](#) comparing this year with last year's record early development. Copper applications also going on.
- Herbicides going on in all berry crops. Weeds are definitely germinating. Our soils are warming and night temps are staying above 40 (F) we've got some 60 (F) daytime highs on the way.
- Strawberries are just starting to push as are some vigorous, young caneberry primocanes. Not much at all yet but starting.
- The forecast looks like we could be in for a mild, wet early spring so phytophthora management could become a priority very soon. Especially if soils are saturated and temps get into the 50's-60's.
- Seems like we shouldn't have any winter damage but we are getting into that risk period where dormancy is broken, warm spells bring out growth and we become much more vulnerable to damage from cold.
- Right now I'd say all crops are looking like they've got good to great potential for the coming season. Nice to have a snow pack!



Grower Resources

- [2016 Southeast Regional Caneberry Production Guide](#) (Just released)
- [California Annual Strawberry Meeting Presentations](#) (held on 2-4-16)

OSU Blueberry School Articles

- [Go here](#) for all the articles available. Below are direct links to a sampling of them. This event happened on March 16-17, 2015 in Corvallis.
 - [Cultivar choices](#)
 - [Economics of Production](#)
 - [Resources Available](#)
 - [On-farm Irrigation System Design and Operation](#)
 - [Pruning – Impact of Plant Age, Cultivar, and Harvest Method](#)
 - [Weed Management for NW Blueberries](#)
 - [Nutrient Management—Assessing Nutrient Needs & Designing Fertilizer Programs](#)

Northwest fresh market blueberry exporting opportunities

Oregon

- [Go here](#) for all the details.
- Packer and grower registration deadline is **March 11**.

British Columbia

- [Go here](#) for information.
- [Canadian Food Inspection Agency Notice](#) Packer and grower registration deadline was **February 14**.

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 10-15 F (-12 to -9 C)”.
 - **Tight cluster:** “Individual flowers distinguishable. Can tolerate 20-23 F (-7 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)



Blueberry Bud Development Comparison for the Western Willamette Valley

- I've been taking weekly bud development comparison photos from the same fields the last few years but didn't start this early until last year when development was so far ahead. Here are this year's first comparisons.
- I know there aren't a lot of Patriot plantings around. I use it because: 1) It's one of the earliest cultivars to break bud; 2) Because of the early bud break, it's likely to show any cold damage before the others; 3) It's available on the same farm as the other monitored fields so it's valuable for comparison purposes.
- I'll add Draper and Liberty photos next week.

Top: February 12, 2016 Bottom: February 13, 2015



Patriot

Bluejay

Duke





Industry news/resources

Berry research blogs

- [Strawberries and Caneberries](#) by Mark Bolda, UC Davis Berry Extension Agent. **Recent Entry: (2/10) Presentations from the 2/4 Annual Strawberry Production Research Meeting Reports on recent insect and disease research and observations in California.**
- [Team Rubus](#) by Gina Fernandez, North Carolina State Small Fruit Specialist. **Recent Entry: (2/10) 2016 Southeast regional caneberry production guide is now available! Reports on issues in blackberries and raspberries from the Southeast**

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.
- [Weekly Market Report from General Produce](#)
- [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](#).

Weather/Climate

- [La Nina expected in next months for the first time since 2012](#) (2/12, Ag Professional)
- ['Pineapple Express' brings record rainfall, flood warnings to Northwest](#) (2/16, Capital Press)

Labor

- [Driscoll's applies fresh approach to ag labor relations](#) (2/3, Fresh Fruit Portal)

Pollinators

- [Study: Bee virus spread manmade, emanates from Europe](#) (2/5, Fruit Grower News)

Marketing/Promotions

- California: [Eight strawberries a day, strawberry commission urges](#) (2/12, The Packer)

Food Policy

- [Food Policy: If you don't speak, others will speak for you](#) (2/8, Growing Produce)

Business

- [Syngenta/ChemChina deal facing U.S. review](#) (2/10, usagnet)

Organics

- [Organic eating is pricey, but is it really that healthy?](#) (2/6, CNBC)
- [Study: Organic ag key to feeding the world sustainably](#) (2/8, usagnet)
- [Study eyes organics at Wal-Mart: No to cookies but yes to strawberries?](#) (2/10, The Packer)

West

- California: [Strawberry acreage cutbacks have many causes](#) (2/12, The Packer)
- California: [Southern California strawberry volumes drop](#) (2/12, The Packer)

International

- Germany: [Bushberries yield and acreage up 5%](#) (2/15, Fresh Plaza)
- Europe: [Soft fruit and niche products could gain fresh importance in 2016](#) (2/12, Fresh Fruit Portal)

Pest Management Information

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 that are 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 starting to think about fledging (*you know they are...*). 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.

Oregon State Extension Field Day Dates

Put the following dates on your calendar for the field days at Oregon State University's North Willamette Research and Extension Center this year.

- **June 8 — Strawberry Open House, 1:00 pm**
- **June 29 — Caneberry Field Day 1:00 pm**
- **July 6 — Blueberry Field Day 1:00 pm**

Berry Event Calendar

Commission Meetings

- **February 19 — Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission** ~ 4 pm regular meeting. Committee meetings start at 1 pm. [Go here](#) for the agenda. Hayden's Grill, Tualatin. Contact: berries@oregon-berries.com
- **New Posting: February 24 — Oregon Strawberry Commission** ~ 12 pm regular meeting. Committee meetings start at 10 am. [Go here](#) for the agenda. McMenamins Restaurant, McMinnville. Contact: berries@oregon-berries.com
- **March 15 — Oregon Blueberry Commission meeting** ~ Noon at the Chemeketa Events at Winema, Building 48, Room 210, Salem. Email jenny@ostlund.com for more information.
- **April 26 — Oregon Blueberry Commission meeting** ~ Noon at the Chemeketa Events at Winema, Building 48, Room 210, Salem. Email jenny@ostlund.com for more information.

National Berry Events

- **March 1-4 — 2016 North American Raspberry & Blackberry Conference** ~ Williamsburg, Virginia. [Go here](#) for all the details.
- **March 2-4 — North American Blueberry Council & US Highbush Blueberry Council Spring meetings** ~ Dallas, Texas. [Go here](#) for the draft agenda. Go here for more information: [U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council website](#).

Archived Small Fruit Updates

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

[3-SFU1-22-16](#)

[5-SFU02-03-16](#)

[6-SFU02-10-16](#)