

Small Fruit Update

Week 5 | January 31, 2018



Highlighted Industry Meetings:

February 15 — Oregon Strawberry Annual Growers Meeting North Willamette Research and Extension Center. Contact [Philip Gutt](#) with questions. [Go here](#) for more information.

February 19, 2018 — 2018 Blueberry Conference all day at Salem Convention Center, Salem, OR. Contact [Lisa Ostlund](#) for more details or call 503.364.2944. [Go here](#) for more details and to register.

See the full industry calendar

- **Feb 23, 2018:** [National Team Will Present Latest Information on Biological Control of SWD.](#)
 - **Feb 27 2018:** (3PM Eastern) [Management of Spotted Wing Drosophila Using Organically Approved Strategies: An Update](#)
 - **Feb 27, 2018** (1PM Eastern): [Tools for Farm Biodiversity](#)
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Scholarship Opportunity: The Oregon Blueberry Commission's 2018-19 Scholarship Program application *due today*. Applicants must be currently enrolled in college. Selection preference will be given to applicants who are enrolled in a Crop Science, Horticulture or Food Science Program. [Go here](#) for more more information and application instructions.

News Highlights:

- [ODA doubles down on efforts to eradicate Japanese beetles](#) (1/30, Capital Press)
- [Haskap berries: great possibilities for Canada](#) (1/29, Fresh Plaza)
- Washington: [These migrant workers alleged poor conditions and were fired. Now the farm is being sued](#) (1/25, The Bellingham Herald)
- [Overview of movement and pricing of fresh raspberries in the U.S.](#) (1/28, Fresh Plaza)

Energy / Environment

- [Opinion: Cap and trade will hurt, not bolster, the ag community in Oregon](#) (1/29, Capital Press)
- [Opinion: For Oregon's farming industry, support clean energy jobs](#) (1/19, Capital Press)
- [Oregon carbon pricing unlikely to pass this year](#) (1/29, Capital Press)

Labor Issues:

- [Foreign workers hired to pick blueberries sue northwestern Washington blueberry farm](#) (1/25, The Spokesman-Review)
- Discussion: [Strawberry fields forever but what about the labor and trucks?](#) (1/29, The Packer)
- [There's a sexual harassment epidemic on America's farms](#) (1/29, The Atlantic)

- [Short raspberry supplies in the US as Mexico volume builds](#) (1/25, Fresh Plaza)
- [New tool kit for retailers to promote Chilean blueberries](#) (1/29, Fresh Plaza)

Misc

- [Second-gen farmers may inherit family farms, but do they face fewer hurdles?](#) (1/30, Civil Eats)
- [USDA program hopes to improve agriculture production in Oregon](#) (1/22, Patch.com)
- California: [Strawberry growers maximizing output on reduced acreage](#) (1/29, Produce News)

Berry Research Blogs

- [A thought on the integration of automation in berries](#) (1/18, Strawberries and Caneberries) *blog by Mark Bolda, UC Davis Berry Extension Agent. Reports on issues from California.*
- [New raspberry and blackberries to trial?](#) (1/20, Team Rubus) *blog by Gina Fernandez, North Carolina State Small Fruit Specialist. Reports on issues in blackberries and raspberries from the Southeast.*

Other recent industry newsletters

- [Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission Update](#) (1/26, ORBC)
- [Washington Red Raspberry Commission Spring Newsletter](#) (1/26, WRRRC)

Pest Management:



Above: *Pseudomonas syringae* (bacterial blight) symptoms in blueberries. Photos are from Joyce Loper's & Virginia Stockwell's power point presentation of their work on this disease.

Bacterial Blight (*Pseudomonas syringae*), blueberries: [Go here](#) for a PCM Research Update on bacterial blight first posted on 1/3/13.

- 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.*



Above: European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*). [Image source.](#)

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.

If they're thinking about fledging, you need to think about managing them.

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