



November 24, 2009

[The Weather Cafe](#) by Rufus La Lone.

[Small Fruit Cold Storage Report](#)

[Industry Calendar of events](#)

Regional reports

These reports are from individuals within the region and are their particular observations. They are included to give an impression of the present 'state of the industry' and regional activities.

- **Whatcom County, Northern Washington:** (11/20) Pairing animals 2x2, holy cow it's been wet and windy. Only pruning raspberries and blueberries up here. Would like to get some lime on at some point. With SWD ([Spotted Wing Drosophila](#)) on our minds, it might be good to remove soft fruited plants like blackberry, thimbleberry, and salmonberry from around fields to take away potential SWD habitat.
- **Skagit County, Northern Washington:** (11/20) We're winterizing the last of our row covers; we had a few steel cables snap and 4 or 5 of the 14" x 6" posts lifted out of the ground by the strong winds. Pruning raspberries now and will start blues in January. Finishing up the last of a weed mat installation on some organic Bluejay. We may wait until ground freezes to finish. We will be cleaning all field perimeters of wild berries as a precaution to minimize potential SWD problems next season.

Pest Management

- **Spotted Wing Drosophila:** Recent research results for baiting/monitoring techniques for SWD from Mark Bolda, UC extension. [Click here](#).

Statistics

- **Oregon Strawberry Crop Totals for 2009 Season** (from commission assessments):
 - Total received: 18,759,217 lbs. (2008- 22,080,566 lbs.)
 - 97% reporting was processed, 3% was u-pick/farmstand
(Data from the commissions doesn't fully account for fruit grown for local fresh markets because many fresh marketers don't report their sales)

Industry news/resources

- (Oregon/U.S.) **Singing the blues:** [Click here](#) (11/09, American Fruit Grower) A good interview with Roy Malensky, owner of Oregon Berry Packing.
- (U.S.) **Giving special thanks:** [Click here](#) (11/09, American Fruit Grower) The Farm Bill's 'remarkable benefits' for specialty crop growers.
- (Chile) **Exchange rates not expected to greatly affect Chilean exports:** [Click here](#) (11/4, The Packer)
- (MI) **Michigan State Extension spared in budget cuts—for now:** [Click here](#) (11/3, Growing Produce)
- **Advent of primocane blackberry tipped to shake up market sector:** [Click here](#) (10/30, Horticulture Week)
- **Technology will change the face of produce:** [Click here](#) (11/9, The Packer)
- (U.K.) **Bumper crop of British blueberries sees sales soar:** [Click here](#) (11/23, The Guardian)

South American Blueberries

- (Chile) **Cold and rain are disrupting the 2009-10 Chilean fruit deal:** [Click here](#) (11/17, The Produce News)
- (Chile/Argentina) **Blueberry import volumes should be down sharply:** [Click here](#) (11/20, The Packer)
- (Chile) **Bad weather crimps Chile cherry deal:** [Click here](#) (11/22, Santiago Times)

Meeting Information

[Click here](#) for the full calendar of Northwest berry crop events.

- **November 25— B.C Blueberry Council Fall Field Day "Pruning for Profit" and council board meeting~** 9 am- 11 am (board meeting). 1- 3 pm (field day). Krause Berry Farms. 6179 248 St. Langley, BC. See [flyer](#) for more details.
- **December 1— Washington Strawberry Commission~** 9 am-2 pm. Chicon Room, WSU Research & Extension Center, 7612 Pioneer Way E., Puyallup, WA 98371. For information call Walter Swenson at 360-352-1236 or [email him](#).
- **December 2-4— Northwest Center for Small Fruits Research Annual Conference~** Kennewick, WA. [Click here](#) for registration and agenda information.
- **December 7— Washington Red Raspberry Commission Annual Meeting~** 10-2. Lynden, WA. For more information call Henry Bierlink at 360-354-8767 or [email](#) him.
- **December 8— WSU Small Fruit Workshop~** [Click here](#) for the agenda and registration information or contact Colleen Burrows, WSU Whatcom County Extension, 360-676-6736 or [email](#) her
- **December 8— Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission Annual Meeting~** 8-1:30. Wellspring Medical Center, Woodburn, Oregon. For more information contact [Philip Gütt](#): 541-758-4043.
- **December 9— Washington Blueberry Commission Annual Meeting~** 9-5, [Click here](#) for the agenda and registration information or contact Alan Schreiber, 509-266-4305 or [email](#) him.
- **January 7, 2010— Oregon Blueberry Commission meeting~** Northwest Research and Extension Center, Aurora, OR.: 9am-12pm: Commission meeting; 12:30-5 pm. Blueberry Researcher/ Contractor Roundup (all growers invited). Call 503 364-2944 for more information.
- **January 12-15, 2010— Ag Connect Expo~** Orlando, FL. A new farm show, organized by farm equipment manufacturers to showcase the latest industry innovations, products and technology. For more information visit the [Ag Connect website](#).
- **January 17-20, 2010—96th Annual NW Food Manufacturing and Packaging Expo and Conference~** Portland, OR. Convention Center. Visit www.nwfpa.org in the coming months to view the 2010 EXPO event pages.
- **January 26, 2010—Oregon Horticulture Society Annual Meeting and 41st Annual NW Ag Show~** 7:45 am- 4:00 pm. Blueberry section 1- 4 pm. Portland, OR Expo Center. Visit <http://www.oregonhorticulturalsociety.org> for more information.
- **January 28-30, 2010— Horticulture Growers' Short Course (part of Tradex 12th Annual Pacific Ag Show) ~** Abbotsford, British Columbia, CA. More info TBA. *Please note that the dates for this 2010 show are different from previous years due to the Olympics.*

Cropwork

The winter rains are here in full force and most field work has come to a halt. However, if conditions allow, the following activities can happen.

With our newly emerging potential pest, the [spotted wing drosophila](#), it is likely that field sanitation will be an increasingly important economic element in eliminating possible breeding and overwintering sites for this pest.

All crops

- Can take soil tests for fertility and/or nematodes.
- Maintain weed control.
- Scout for voles and treat as needed.

Caneberries

- Can cut out old floricanes now and tie up primocanes.
- Scout and mark problem weed areas that could be treated in the winter.
- Apply lime, dolomite, gypsum and/or fall fertilizer.
- Subsoil and/or hill.
- Can apply copper or Bordeaux after tying up canes.

Blueberries

- Scout for weevil notching on lower leaves.
- Apply sulfur, lime, dolomite, gypsum and/or fall fertilizer.

Strawberries

- Scout weak areas for root weevil larvae, Strawberry Crown Moth, root disease or soil problems.
- Scout for weevil notching on leaves.
- Apply lime, dolomite, gypsum and/or fall fertilizer.