

Small Fruit Update



News and opinions from [Peerbolt Crop Management](#) and [BerriesNW](#) sent out weekly during the growing season, and sporadically when we have something to share in the off season.

April 27, 2010

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Videos of the Week: Libertas Fruit Company, Serbia.

- [Click here](#) for an article regarding USAID supporting the Serbian raspberry industry.
- [Click here](#) for videos of their packing facilities.

Photos of the Week: [Rust stages](#) now visible in Oregon raspberries.

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

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Lyle Rader, (11/21/37- 4/23/10): Lyle, one of our Northwest berry industry's leaders over the past 60 years, died this last Friday. Past owner and founder of Rader Farms in Lynden, past president of the Washington Red Raspberry Commission, Lyle leaves a legacy of passion, achievement, community service, and commitment to excellence. [Click here](#) for more information. There will be a memorial service in Lynden at 11 AM this Thursday at the Sonlight Community Christian Church.

Thank you, Lyle.

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.

British Columbia, Fraser Valley

- **Blueberries:** (4/25/10) Blueberries really popped last week after the warm weather of Apr 18-19 (68F-77F). Lots of bloom going on as well as a lot of hurry up fungicide spraying for the first major bloom spray. All varieties have significant bloom with the exception of Elliot. Bees are more active than I have seen the past few seasons. I saw some tremendous activity in some fields, and it was kind of dangerous just getting in their way! Haven't run into any Scorch symptoms yet.
- **Raspberries:** (4/25/10) Raspberries moved along this week with some significant growth after that early week warm period. Even some of the poorer Meekers showed signs of life. I'm starting to see a pattern in the fields where bud development is slow or non-existent. It appears that there is significant Spur Blight infection in most of the slow moving fields. Just why we're getting so much and why it's having so much impact is the question. Mite development a bit slow with cooler weather that moved in after Monday.

Disseminating information for:

Washington

[Washington Red Raspberry Commission](#)

[Washington Blueberry Commission](#)

[Washington Strawberry Commission](#)

Oregon

[Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission](#)

[Oregon Blueberry Commission](#)

[Oregon Strawberry Commission](#)

British Columbia

[Fraser Valley Strawberry Growers Association](#)

[Raspberry Industry Development Council](#)

[B.C. Blueberry Council](#)

Whatcom County, Northern Washington:

Nothing in my SWD or leafroller traps, however, I am finding small pale-colored larvae in the raspberries.

- **Blueberries:**
 - (4/23/10) Leafrollers in the blues (again). Pretty tough to get a complete kill, it would seem. All kinds of sprays went on. Asana had the best control.
 - (4/23/10) Blues really popped into bloom following two days of 70 degrees +. Most bees are in, and most 1st bloom sprays on. Some Shock symptoms are appearing. Slight frost damage is evident in areas having no frost protection devices.
- **Raspberries:**
 - (4/23/10) Raspberry tops are still really slow. Weather's been up and down. We had a slight frost this morning. We'll see what kind of problems that created.
 - (4/23/10) Raspberries are looking much better for the most part. Some slower fields are picking up higher mite populations. Wind and hail tore up a lot of leaves, but damage is being hidden by new growth.
- **Strawberries:**
 - (4/23/10) Fruit spurs are starting to push.

Skagit County, Northern Washington:

- **Blueberries:** (4/26/10) In Skagit, early blooming cultivars (like Early Blue) are on the second bloom spray. Bees have only been out a couple of days, as it has been cool and breezy- not to their liking, but they're very busy when they do come out. More bumble bees in the fields than in years past. At least there seems to be more, and they come out when weather is very bad.
- **Raspberries:** (4/26/10) Raspberries continue to be somewhat erratic in pushing, and many of the laterals are budding at very short lengths.
- **Strawberries:** (4/26/10) Strawberries are coming fast into bloom and some mites are showing. Some weevil damage showing as well. Mixed weather has them slowing down a bit. However, they will still be ahead of last year.

Willamette Valley, Oregon and SW Washington:

- **Blueberries:**
 - (4/23/10) (Organic production) We have better than normal bee activity less than normal disease pressure, so looking good so far. Frost fans have been running the last few nights. A little bit of shock in the Reka. First Bloom spray went on 10 days ago, second going on now. First fish through the drip on and second shot will go on next week. The weeds are also growing really well; it's been hard to get in the fields to work them over. The former owner made the comment he's never seen the bees work this hard and wondered if the difference in activity could be related to it now being managed organic.
 - (4/26/10) We just finished our second bloom spray. Estimated bloom stages at this application: Aurora (40%), Bluecrop (60%), Bluegold (75%), Bluejay (80%), Blueray (50%), Brigitta (70%), Burlington (50%), Draper (40%), Duke (50%), Elliott (15%), Hardiblu (80%), Jersey (70%), Legacy (40%), Liberty (40%), and Rubel (80%). We included a phosphite with the fungicides but the small leaves made for a limited target for uptake. We may repeat a second round of phosphite later in the spring. A near absence of worms has allowed us to hold off on a Bt spray but we will surely include a Bt with the next cover spray. Some hail and cold damage is evident in our area although we have not suffered. Our low temperature in recent days was 32.4 F.
- **Raspberries:** (4/26/10) Rust is becoming a concern as the weather over the last few days has given us some relatively long leaf wetness periods at the same time the disease is releasing spores. Some grower will be going on with a Rally or Abound this week. A few open blooms here and there but still probably a couple of weeks away from 10 % bloom.
- **Blackberries:** (4/26/10) Silvans are showing some open bloom. Will have some fields hitting 10% this week. We're still trying to get a handle on the amount of cold damage is in the Marions.
- **Strawberries:** (4/26/10) We're in the middle of 10% bloom in that some fields have been treated and many others will be there this week and next. Weather's turned pretty wet overnight probably be a few days before we can get back into the fields.

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Meetings

WSU Extension Workshops on Spotted Wing Drosophila

- **April 28—Vancouver**, 9am-12pm. WSU REU Vancouver. 1919 NE 78th Street, Vancouver, WA. RSVP to [Todd Murray](#) (360) 428-4270 ext.225. Check [the flyer](#) for contact information and subjects to be covered.

- **April 30—Mount Vernon**, 9am-12pm. Mt. Vernon Research & Extension Center. 16650 State Route 536, Mt. Vernon, WA. RSVP to [Don McMoran](#) (253) 798-7028. See [the flyer](#) for more details.
- **May 6—WSU Grower Workshop**, 9am-12pm. WSU Puyallup Research and Extension Center. 7612 Pioneer Way, Puyallup, RSVP to [Chris Benedict](#) (253) 798-7028).

OSU Extension Workshops on Spotted Wing Drosophila

These workshops, free and open to the public, are for assisting homeowners and growers of fruit crops with identification and management of this new insect pest. For more information, call the OSU Polk County Extension office at 503-623-8395.

- **April 26—Salem**, Salem Electric meeting room, 633 7th Street NW, 7-8:30pm.
- **May 12—Dallas**, Academy Building, Room 212, 182 SW Academy Street. 7-8:30pm.

IPM Scouting Tools for Blueberry & Raspberry Production in Whatcom County During Bloom

- **May 7—** WSU Whatcom County Extension, 9:30am–12pm. This is the second installment of a series of crop specific field sessions on pest identification, scouting and field management appropriate to the current crop growth stage. Please RSVP to Dan Coyne: dcoyne@wsu.edu or (360) 676-6736. Click [here](#) for more information. Location: Boxx Berry Farm, 6211 Northwest Road, Ferndale, WA.

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Pest Alerts

- **Mummyberry blueberries:** If the field or adjacent fields have a history of Mummyberry infections, preventative applications should begin at green tip stage and continue through the end of bloom.

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New Pest Management & IPM Information

Insects/Mites

- **Spotted Wing Drosophila** all berries:
 - **Trapping update for SWD around Watsonville:** [Click here](#) (4/21, Mark Bolda, UC Extension, blog)
 - **Trapping for SWD in Strawberries:** [Click here](#) (4/16, Mark Bolda, UC Extension, blog) Mark has some photos of the trap design being used in British Columbia.

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Industry News/Resources

Newsletters

- **The Source**, marketing news from The Produce News for 4/26/10: [Click here](#).
- **Fruit News from Michigan State University** for 4/23/10: [Click here](#).
- **Blueberry Newsletter from Michigan State University** for 4/27/10: [Click here](#).
 - Frost protection news (they're looking at freezes tonight),
 - Good pollination/bee information.
- **New Jersey Blueberry Bulletin** for 4/19/10: [Click here](#).
 - **Good article on pollination.** Here's an excerpt: *"Many of you have seen your bees fly out of the hive, past your 'Duke' bushes, and over to your neighbor's 'Bluecrop' field. This preference for one variety over another is not fully understood. It may be related to the quantity of nectar, pollen, sugar concentration, or flower color."*
 - Recommendations on hives per acre however, is very low for our region.

Northwest

- **Oregon Blueberry Growers Association ends:** [Click here](#). Founded in 1954, the OBGA will hold its final meeting on May 8th at 9 am at the Marion County Extension office (3180 Center Street NE, Room 1361). The OBGA was a precursor of the Oregon Blueberry Commission and has struggled to find a role within the industry since the OBC began. Many growers and industry people have devoted their time and resources to the OBGA. It has served its purpose ably.

National

- **Legislation: First Hearing on 2012 Farm Bill:** [Click here](#) (4/21, GrowingProduce.com)

- **Florida: Uncle Matt's enters Florida blueberry deal:** [Click here](#) (4/26, The Packer)
- **Florida: Blueberries, rich in antioxidants, vitamins, and nearing peak season:** [Click here](#) (4/16, The Palm Beach Post)
- **CA: Cold, wet weather delays California spring fruit:** [Click here](#) (4/26, The Packer)
- **N. Carolina: Strawberry growers gearing up for 2010 season:** [Click here](#) (4/22, WXII12.com, Winston-Salem)
- **Nutrition: Chokeberry (Aronia) extract found to regulate weight gain, blood glucose, and inflammation in rats:** [Click here](#) (4/25, esciencenews.com)
- **Eastern Canada: Strawberries thrive under protective blankets:** [Click here](#) (4/16, The Standard)

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Control Material Information

Maximum Residue Levels (MRL's)

MRL's have become a very significant issue in the global berry market. An MRL is the maximum pesticide residue level allowed by that particular country/market.

- **USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service MRL Information:** [Click here](#).
- **MRL Database:** [Click here](#) to check on the MRL for any pesticide in any crop in any market.

Blueberry pest management options

- **Weed management:** [Click here](#) for an excellent Michigan State write-up of blueberry pre-harvest herbicide options. Great practical information on Callisto, recently labeled for blueberries. Plus a cost analysis/rates covering Aim DF, Fusilade DX 2E, Gramoxone Max, Poast 1.5E, Rely and Roundup Ultra 4L.
- **Disease management:** [Click here](#) Rating fungicides for their effectiveness on blueberry diseases.

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Ongoing Pest Management Information

Insects

- [Clay Colored Weevils](#) northern raspberries
- [Aphids/Scorch virus](#), northern blueberries: Pre bloom aphid control is strongly recommended in blueberry fields infected with or in close proximity to fields infected with [Scorch virus](#). **This disease is most prevalent in B.C.** The Blueberry Council is again providing free Scorch and Shock virus testing to all B.C. blueberry growers. Bloom is the best time to look for symptoms. [Click here](#) for the sample submission.
- **Alert:** [Winter Moth/ Bruce Spanworm](#) blueberries
- [Leafroller larvae](#) blueberries
- [Redberry Mite](#) evergreen blackberries
- [Strawberry Crown Moth](#), southern strawberries: Larvae are now being recovered from the crowns of strawberry plants in some SW Washington fields.
- **Root Weevils**, southern strawberries: Larvae of [Black Vine](#), [Rough Strawberry](#), and [Strawberry Root Weevils](#) are now being recovered from some strawberry fields.
- [Blueberry Gall Midge](#), blueberries

Diseases

- [Yellow Rust](#), raspberries
- [Pseudomonas \(Bacterial Blight\)](#) blueberries
- **Alert:** [Mummyberry](#) blueberries: See alert section above.
- [Phytophthora Root Rot](#) raspberries
- [Blackberry Rust](#) (Phragmidium Rust) Evergreen blackberries
- [Shock virus](#), blueberries
- [Scorch virus](#), British Columbia blueberries: [Click here](#) for the sampling instructions. Call (604) 613-2133 or email [Sonja Ring](#), the Council's research coordinator, for information.
- [Spur Blight](#), raspberries
- [Downy Mildew](#), boysenberries, Kotata blackberries (occasionally other blackberries)

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Crop work

All crops—

- Can put out monitoring traps for Spotted Wing Drosophila.
- Weed management.
- Fertilizer program.

Blueberries—

- Scout for Winter Moth/Spanworm and treat as needed.
- Can apply Bacterial Blight (*Pseudomonas*) management materials.
- Scout for sprouting Mummyberries and treat as needed.
- Scout for leafroller larvae feeding.
- Scout for virus symptoms & send in samples for testing as needed.
- Bring in bees by 10-15% bloom.

Blackberries—

- Can apply fungicide for prevention of Purple Blotch in Marions.
- Burn back primocanes as needed.
- Can apply phosphite material for Downey Mildew prevention in Boysens and Kotatas.
- Scout for virus symptoms & send in samples for testing as needed.

Evergreen Blackberries—

- Can apply a delayed dormant spray of lime/sulfur or elemental sulfur for Redberry Mites and Blackberry Rust.

Raspberries—

- Burn back primocanes as needed.
- Scout for Clay Colored Weevil feeding and treat as needed.
- Scout for Yellow Rust and assess treatment options.
- Can apply a phosphite material for stronger root growth and root rot prevention.
- Scout for virus symptoms & send in samples for testing as needed.

Strawberries—

- As plants start to grow, watch for weak growing areas and scout for weevil larvae, Strawberry Crown Moth larvae, root rots and/or cold damage.
- At 10% bloom, can apply a fungicide for fruit/blossom rot.
- Can apply a phosphite material for stronger root growth and root rot prevention.

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Archived Small Fruit Updates

These are Small Fruit Updates from the last month (for older Updates [click here](#))

[04-20-10](#)

[04-13-10](#)

[04-06-10](#)

[03-30-10](#)