

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.

May 18, 2010

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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:** (5/17) Bloom on Dukes, Bluecrop at the last stages. Lots of green fruit starting to fill and it looks so far as if pollination may not have been too bad even with the early bloom poor weather. We'll see in the next week or so if this holds out to be true. Cold weather (frosts, hail) looks to have taken a toll on leaves. A lot of plants (especially Duke) look to be light on the side leaf-wise in relation to fruit load.
- **Raspberries:** (5/17) Most raspberry fields are close to bloom with the Eastern Fraser Valley already starting. A continuation of the past warm days and nights would have really brought them on fast this week, but the coming showers are welcome for a short time, as it (incredibly) seems to have been getting dry. Had to start irrigating some fields on the weekend. I don't know about this crop. Laterals are not really pushing like I thought they might.

Whatcom County, Northern Washington

- **Blueberries:** (5/17) Ditto in Whatcom (*on Fraser Valley comments*). Hail damage on leaves and fruit in the blues, plus lack of pollination for a while put a damper on things. Damage from frost, hail, botrytis, Mummyberry, Bacterial Blight, shock virus, etc. commingling.

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](#)

- **Raspberries:**
 - (5/17) Raspberries pushing now with another shot of fertilizer, irrigation, and warmer weather; however, I fear it is too late to put on a heavy crop. Pre-bloom Raspberry Fruitworm Beetle sprays went on the last two weeks. 1st bloom spray approaching real soon, when the showers stop.
 - (5/17) First Spotted Wing Drosophila male of the season was recovered from one of our monitoring traps this morning. It was located in a raspberry field. Reds are getting pre-bloom cleanup insecticide applications.
- **Strawberries:** (5/17) Near full bloom; weevil spots are very evident.

Skagit County, Northern Washington

- **Blueberries:** (5/17) Things moving quickly here, as well. In blueberries, Duke and Bluecrop bloom nearly over in our plots. Weeds are making a good come back as the herbicides seem to be letting down early this year.
- **Raspberries:** (5/17) Meeker, Bounty and Chemainus all into bloom; Malahat has been in for over a week.

Willamette Valley, Oregon and SW Washington

- **Blueberries:** (5/17) At Salem we just completed our late bloom/small green berry cover spray with a fungicide plus a Bt insecticide. Aphid and Blueberry Gall Midge showed up this week in the tender tips of new canes near the base of the plant. All blocks have received at least one irrigation set. Showers and cool weather may slow us down again. Honey bees will be coming out of the fields this week.
- **Blackberries:** (5/17) Not looking forward to the rain now that we are starting into bloom in the Marions. We need strong pollination to get the blooms that are there to develop. Not sure what some of the strong looking fields will do once they get stressed from heat and a fruit load. Could they be damaged from the cold and we just don't know it, yet? In the weaker, cold damaged fields the fruit spurs droop with just the little bit of heat we have had in the afternoons. In most Marion fields I am estimating bloom to be 10 to 20 percent with some bloom sprays going on.
- **Raspberries:** (5/17) Hopefully, this showery, warm weather won't get the rust going. Bloom has really moved in the last week with sunny, mid-70 degree weather. Now we'll need to watch for pollination issues and make sure the fungicides are in place. Green fruit starting to show with bloom around 30-40%.
- **Strawberries:** (5/17) We're well into full bloom with fruit just barely starting to color in some of the Hood, Totem and Tillamook fields. Some Powdery Mildew and mite issues starting right on schedule. Seems like a pretty long bloom period, although this last warm spell might concentrate a second pick in mid to late June. Still looks like a crowded harvest season with strawberries overlapping the start of raspberries, blackberries and blueberries. So far, labor availability doesn't seem to be an issue. On the fresh side, Albions are ripening and starting to show up in the markets.

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New Meeting Information

- **May 26th—British Columbia Spotted Wing Drosophila Field Day:** 3:00pm, PARC Abbotsford Research Substation, 510 Clearbrook Road. Hosted by the B.C. berry organizations, the field day will provide information on monitoring and management of SWD.
- **June 3rd—OSU's North Willamette Research & Extension Center's Strategic Planning Summit:** 4 pm-8 pm, Al Kader Shrine Center, 25100 Southwest Parkway Avenue, Wilsonville, OR. [Click here](#) for the agenda & details. They'd like an RSVP by May 26th online at <http://oregonstate.edu/dept/NWREC/rsvp.php> or by calling 503-678-1264 x110.

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Crop Protection Materials Information

Alert: The EPA continues to move forward with this plan that could seriously impact many NW berry growers.

EPA announces intent to implement plan for restricting use of malathion, diazinon and chlorpyrifos in Washington and Oregon.

- EPA's main page for this issue with regularly updated documents: [Click here](#).
 - May 14th EPA description of their implementation plan: [Click here](#).
 - May 7th Response from impacted registrants declining to adopt the limitations: [Click here](#).

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Industry News/Resources

Newsletters

- **The Source**, marketing news from The Produce News for 5/17/10: [Click here](#).
- **British Columbia Blueberry Council Blueberry IPM Newsletter** for 5/15: [Click here](#).

- **Michigan State Blueberry Newsletter** for 5/18: [Click here](#).
- **Michigan State IPM Fruit Newsletter** for 5/18: [Click here](#).
- **New Jersey Blueberry Bulletin** for 5/10: [Click here](#). A quote from Gary Pavlis, Rutgers Blueberry Specialist, "If a plant has a full crop but does not have any leaves, ***the first thing that should be done is to strip the fruit off the plant.*** In this way, once the problem is solved the plant is able to recover. With a full crop load, it will probably die."

Food Safety Developments

- **CDC expands inquiry in E. coli outbreak:** [Click here](#) (5/14, The Packer)
- **Latest Romaine lettuce recalls leave Arizona growers waiting for answers:** [Click here](#) (5/13, The Produce News)
- **Report calls for EU-style food safety reforms:** [Click here](#) (5/11, The Packer)

West

- **Looking at two new strawberry varieties from UC-Davis:** [Click here](#) (5/10, Western Fruit Grower. A look at Benecia and Mojave. They're expected to compete with Camarosa and Ventana.
- **County farmworker camps at capacity:** [Click here](#) (5/18, Napa Valley Register)
- **California Blueberry Commission chooses administrator:** [Click here](#) (5/18, The Packer)
- **Fall Creek Farm hires CFO:** [Click here](#) (5/17, The Packer)

National

- **For Farmworkers, sometimes it's the little thing that count:** [Click here](#) (5/13, triplepundit.com)
- **USDA releases Agricultural Transportation report:** [Click here](#) (5/12, USDA)
- **Farmers: Immigration reform needed for ag workers:** [Click here](#) (5/10, Associated Press)
- **Dissecting AgJobs:** [Click here](#) (5/10, Western Fruit Grower)
- **Organic leaders hail cancer panel report:** [Click here](#) (5/14, The Packer)
- **Committee sets hearings for farm bill 2012:** [Click here](#) (5/14, The Packer)
- **Weed scientists protest funding cuts:** [Click here](#) (5/18, Western Farm Press)

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Spotted Wing Drosophila Update

- **Wasco County, OR. SWD trap catch:** From [Peter Schearer](#), OSU Mid-Columbia Agricultural Research and Extension Center: "I have confirmed that a fly recovered from a trap located in Mosier, Oregon, was a female Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD). The fly was collected on May 10, 2010, and is the first SWD captured in the Mid-Columbia region this year. Currently we have over 100 traps in the region that are being serviced by scouts hired with special Emergency Funds from the Oregon Legislature. Current information pertaining to SWD management can be obtained from area Horticulture Agents Lynn Long (lynn.long@oregonstate.edu) in Wasco County and Steve Castagnoli (steve.castagnoli@oregonstate.edu) in Hood River County."
- **Whatcom County, WA. SWD trap catch:** A reliable source has reported recovering the first SWD male this year in a raspberry field in Whatcom County.

Websites:

- **Peerbolt Crop Management:** Regularly updated monitoring trap numbers for Central and Northern Willamette Valley and SW Washington: [Click here](#). BerriesNW site: [Click here](#).
- **Oregon State University:** [Click here](#). This is the site with the most in-depth information.
- **British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture and Lands:** [Click here](#). For the B.C. recommendations and perspectives.
- **Washington State University:** [Click here](#). WSU recommendations and ongoing information.
- **University of California:** [Click here](#). U.C. Berry Extension agent Mark Bolda's blog with SWD information.
- **University of California:** [Click here](#). IPM management guidelines.

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New Pest Management & IPM Information

Pollinators

- "Managing Alternative Pollinators", a new publication from SARE: [Click here](#) for more detailed information & how to order.

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Ongoing Pest Management Information

Insects

- [Aphids/Scorch virus](#), **northern blueberries**: 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.
- **Root Weevils, southern strawberries**: Root weevil pupae and adults are now being recovered as well as larvae in southern strawberry fields. After emergence, it takes about 30 days before an adult (and they're all female) begins laying eggs. So treatments for the adults should take place before that 30 day window is up but after sizable amounts have emerged. Monitoring the larvae and pupae development is the best way to know the status of these pests. It's also very time consuming and difficult to quantify. For more information click on the following: [Black Vine](#), [Rough Strawberry](#), and [Strawberry Root Weevils](#).
- [Clay Colored Weevils](#) **northern raspberries**
- [Winter Moth/ Bruce Spanworm](#) **blueberries**
- [Leafroller larvae](#) **blueberries**
- [Redberry Mite](#) **evergreen blackberries**
- [Strawberry Crown Moth](#), **southern strawberries**
- [Blueberry Gall Midge](#), **blueberries**
- [Raspberry Beetle](#), **northern raspberries**
- [Twospotted Spider Mites](#), **northern raspberries**.
- [Yellow Mites](#), **northern raspberries**.
- [Azalea Bark Scale](#), **southern blueberries**

Diseases

- [Alternaria Fruit Rot](#), **blueberries**: As blueberry bloom starts to finish, it's time to consider whether you need to prevent Alternaria and Anthracnose problems from showing up in the fruit. Alternaria can infect the fruit beginning at the end of bloom and throughout the fruit development stage, up until harvest. Infections remain latent until the fruit ripens. Infected fruits exhibit a shriveling or caving-in of the side of the berry and can become watery in storage.
- [Anthracnose Ripe Rot](#), **blueberries**: If you've had problems with Anthracnose, prevention of a reoccurrence needs to begin at petal fall. Symptoms: First, blighting of shoot tips; then, a few flowers turn brown or black. Leaf spots, when they occur, are large or small and roughly circular. As infected berries ripen, the flower end may soften and pucker. Under warm and rainy conditions, salmon-colored spore masses form on infected berries. After harvest, spore masses form rapidly on infected fruit when in cellophane-covered baskets or in plastic clamshell packs.
- [Yellow Rust](#), **raspberries**
- [Pseudomonas \(Bacterial Blight\)](#) **blueberries**
- [Mummyberry](#) **blueberries**
- [Phytophthora Root Rot](#) **raspberries**
- [Blackberry Rust \(Phragmidium Rust\)](#) **Evergreen blackberries**
- [Shock virus](#), **blueberries**
- [Scorch virus](#), **British Columbia blueberries**: [Click here](#) for the sampling instructions.
- [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 until the end of bloom.
- Scout for leafroller larvae feeding.
- Scout for scale insects.
- Scout for weevil notching.

- Scout for virus symptoms & send in samples for testing as needed.
- Bring in bees by 10-15% bloom.
- Can apply regular fungicides for fruit/blossom rot.
- After petal fall, can treat for alternaria and anthracnose prevention if needed.

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.
- Bring in bees by 10% bloom.
- At 10% bloom, can begin applying regular fungicides for fruit/blossom rot.

Raspberries—

- Bring in bees by 10% bloom.
- At 10% bloom, can begin applying regular fungicides for fruit/blossom rot.
- Scout for Clay Colored Weevil feeding and treat as needed.
- Scout for Yellow Rust and assess treatment options.
- Scout for spider mites and treat as needed.
- 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—

- Watch for weak growing areas and scout for weevil larvae, strawberry crown moth larvae, root rots and/or cold damage.
- Scout for virus symptoms/send in sample for testing to confirm.
- At 10% bloom, can begin applying regular fungicides for fruit/blossom rot.
- Scout for Powdery Mildew and treat as needed.
- Scout for two spotted spider mites and predatory, beneficial mites.
- Scout for aphids.
- Can apply a phosphite material for stronger root growth and root rot prevention.
- Scout for weevil adults and notching (South).

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Archived Small Fruit Updates

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

[05-11-10](#)

[05-04-10](#)

[04-27-10](#)

[04-20-10](#)