

# 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 25, 2010

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***We've got perfect environmental conditions throughout the region for fungal disease development. Along with the weather, the presence of ripening fruit as a host compounds the risk of economic losses. Be sure to take advantage of the fungal disease management tools you've got available.***

## 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

*A pretty unsettling week, last week. High winds and some localized hail again knocked off fruit, bloom clusters and leaves in the blues and broke raspberry laterals.*

- **Blueberries:** (5/25) Bloom on Dukes, Bluecrop, Bluejay basically done. Elliot left to go with lots of bloom. Fruit is filling fast with some pretty good size on Dukes already. Nitrogen is in the process of being applied to meet the increased demands of fruit and foliage.
- **Raspberries:** (5/25) Everyone poised for first major bloom spray in raspberries but it seems to be stalling a bit without warm days. More and more it looks to be a short crop. Some good fields but a lot of short laterals. We need to get out of this showery, cool weather as the bloom gets under way.

### Whatcom County, Northern Washington

- **Blueberries/Raspberries:** (5/21) Lots of wrecked leaves. Lots of

### 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](#)

white flowers on the ground. Lots of grumpy growers. The only good news is that bugs don't seem to proliferate well in this junk either. Pretty clean for the most part with the exception of one lowly SWD male. Set the traps and check them twice. Everybody seems to have a beer in hand already to ease their suffering so I have been using that in my traps. 1 ounce per trap and 11 for me. I am getting better. I can now set up to 7 traps in a row. Now I just have to remember where I set them...

- **Blueberries/ Raspberries/Strawberries:** (5/21) Dear Pollyanna, things just can't get any worse, but don't count on it. Wind, rain, hail the last few days took another toll on all the berry crops up here. LOTS of frost damage in the blues really showing up now, and hail shreds the leaves. Strawberries actually looking much better, except where the hail dings the flowers, can you spell monkey faced? Raspberries trying to catch up in growth, and going into bloom rather slowly. The high winds tore off many laterals.

### Willamette Valley, Oregon and SW Washington

- **Blueberries:** (5/24) Bloom is finished on all except some of the late season varieties. Certainly seeing more botrytis and other kind of fungal disease symptoms.
- **Blackberries:** (5/25) This is not what we needed for the middle of bloom—an extended cool, wet period. Many fields were already looking weak.
- **Raspberries:** (5/24) Most fields look pretty good, but this weather is definitely going to keep bees in their hives. Growers are trying to keep up with fungicide applications but it's very tough to get into the fields. Hoping for a dry break starting this coming Saturday.
- **Strawberries:** (5/22) Early, fresh market fruit is being picked, but the rain and wet fields have not helped, as slugs and soft fruit multiply. Southwest Washington harvest of Totems and Tillamooks for processed will get going during the week of June 7<sup>th</sup> while most Oregon fields are running about a week later than that.

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## Pest Alerts

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- **Slugs, southern strawberries:** The wet conditions combined with ripening fruit are bringing out a bumper crop of slugs. Slug control materials are being used by many growers. With ripe fruit in the field, be sure to follow label directions carefully to avoid any fruit contamination.
- **Spotted Wing Drosophila, all berry crops**
  - **Feared pest descends on Golden State:** [Click here](#) Cherries are reporting damage. This is the first public story I've picked up on SWD damage this season.
  - **Whatcom County Extension has SWD Website up:** [Click here](#) They've got a great interactive map of where their monitoring traps are and what the SWD numbers are (or will be) at each trap location.
  - **SWD monitoring information updates for Oregon and SW Washington:** [Click here](#).
    - We've added graphs/charts of SWD trap catches in each county covered by the survey that can be accessed by clicking on the '[SWD County Charts](#)' listing on the top menu.
    - The scouts, data collection and website for this project are organized/produced by Peerbolt Crop Management with partial funding from: the Oregon Department of Ag, the USDA's Northwest Center for Small Fruits Research, and the Washington Red Raspberry, Blueberry and Strawberry commissions.
  - **Numbers of SWD adults caught in monitoring traps this past week have been increasing in Oregon and SW Washington:**
    - There are reliable reports of cherries and berry fruit being damaged by SWD activity along the Central California coast. Estimates of the extent of economic damage caused by these infestations are not available.
    - Traps in Jackson County, Oregon, along the California border reported catches of 18 SWD.
    - 2 of the 19 Oregon west side cherry orchards being monitored through the state funded program reported increased catches.
    - SW Washington trap catches, while still generally one or two per trap (if any) also increased this week.
    - One or two adults have been recovered from various strawberry, raspberry and blueberry fields in Oregon.
    - No egg laying activity or actual fruit damage has been observed to date.

## New Meeting Information

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- **May 26<sup>th</sup>—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 3<sup>rd</sup>—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 26<sup>th</sup> online at <http://oregonstate.edu/dept/NWREC/rsvp.php> or by calling 503-678-1264 x110.

- **June 17<sup>th</sup> — WSU Strawberry Field Day:** 2:00 to 4:00 pm, Puyallup, WA at the Goss Farm (formerly Farm 5). As in past years, it will be an informal wander through the research plots pointing out some of the more promising selections. Also discussion on the current information on the spotted wing drosophila. Contact [Dr. Pat Moore](#) (253-445-4525) for more information.

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## Crop Protection Materials Information

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### ADHD/organophosphate pesticide article update

(See previous Small Fruit Update for original posts on this subject)

- **Key Issue Points Re: Pediatrics article:** [Click here](#) (5/16, CropLife America).
- **New study links pesticides and attention deficit in kids:** [Click here](#) (5/21, PBS).
- **Pesticides and ADHD:** [Click here](#) (5/19, Neurologica). This is an excellent, logical analysis of the study and the media response by a Neurologist.

## Industry News/Resources

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### Newsletters

- **The Source**, marketing news from The Produce News for 5/24/10: [Click here](#).
- **Michigan State Blueberry Newsletter** for 5/25: [Click here](#).
- **Michigan State IPM Fruit Newsletter** for 5/25: [Click here](#).
- **New Jersey Blueberry Bulletin** for 5/17: [Click here](#).
- **The US Highbush Blueberry Council 'Bluespaper'** for May: [Click here](#).

### West

- **B.C.: Feds fund research into better berries:** [Click here](#) (5/19, Aldergrove Star).
- **B.C.: SWD Brochure for fruit stands, grocers and home gardeners:** [Click here](#).
- **Up to province to silence berry cannons:** [Click here](#) (4/22, Langley Times).
- **Whatcom County farmers aim for early strawberry harvest:** [Click here](#) (5/23, Bellingham Herald).
- **New pest poses threat to Whatcom County berry harvest:** [Click here](#) (5/24, The News Tribune).
- **Lane County (Oregon) Extension to close:**
  - [Click here](#) (5/20, Eugene Register Guard) for the news story.
  - [Click here](#) (5/19, OSU) for the OSU press release.

### National

- **Florida: Blueberries delayed by weeks:** [Click here](#) (5/18, Tampa Bay Online).
- **Berry patch theme supports entire category:** [Click here](#) (5/24, The Packer).
- **A true blue hero:** [Click here](#) (5/20, City of Hope Newsletter).
- **Florida: Blueberries ripe for the pickin':** [Click here](#) (5/20, Ocala Times).
- **U.S. not producing enough fruits & vegetables for adequate diet:** [Click here](#) (5/19, Reuters).
- **Study: No evidence organic foods benefit health:** [Click here](#) (5/24, Reuters).
- **Carolina Blueberry Association enjoying its 'overnight success':** [Click here](#) (5/24, Produce News).

### Alternative Berry Crops

- **Market watch: Deliciously strange Pakistan mulberries:** [Click here](#) (5/21, Los Angeles Times).
- **Holland: Red currant harvesting started at BerryBrothers:** [Click here](#) (5/24, FreshPlaza.com).

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## New Pest Management & IPM Information

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### WANTED – Raspberry fields for research trials for root rot & nematode management:

- **Goal:** Develop methods other than pre-plant broadcast fumigation to manage root rot and nematodes.
- **Needed:** Raspberry fields in Washington or Oregon that will be removed from production this year and are planned for re-planting in spring 2011 in which to conduct on-farm research.
- **Researchers:** Colleen Burrows (IPM Coordinator, WSU Whatcom County Extension), Tom Walters (Horticulturist, WSU Mt. Vernon), and Inga Zasada (Nematologist, USDA-ARS Corvallis).

- **Funding sources:** The Northwest Center for Small Fruit Research (NWCSFR) & NIFA-Pest Management Alternatives Program (PMAP).
- **Contact:** If you can help and/or want more information contact Tom Walters, by email ([twwalters@wsu.edu](mailto:twwalters@wsu.edu)) or phone (360-848-6124).

## Diseases

- **[Powdery Mildew](#), strawberries:** Some strawberry fields in the south are showing Powdery Mildew symptoms and are being treated this week.
- **[Blackberry Rust](#) (Phragmidium Rust) **evergreen blackberries:**** Levels of rust have been low. However the recent change in weather favors disease development and increases have been observed in some evergreen blackberry fields.
- **[Yellow Rust](#), raspberries:** Same message as above: Levels of rust have been pretty low. However the recent change in weather favors disease development and increases have been observed in some raspberry fields.

## Ongoing Pest Management Information

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### 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

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### 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.
- Scout for fruit disease symptoms and/or disorders
- 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

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

[05-18-10](#)

[05-11-10](#)

[05-04-10](#)

[04-27-10](#)