

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.

June 1, 2010

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Fungal disease pressures continue to build. Last week's bad conditions have now gotten even worse with temperatures warming 5-10 degrees, more vulnerable hosts, and more fungal spores.

It's a critical time for this season's berry crops. Do everything you can to protect the plants and crops from rots, molds, and rusts. The weather's 'supposed' to break next week.

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:** (5/31) Some fruit rot showing up on green fruit in blues lately. Really need to get (or should have) the extra fungicides on green fruit especially with the forecast we're staring at this week. Seeing aphid populations building and aphicides should go on with bee removal. Really only Elliots left with any bloom.
- **Raspberries:** (5/31) Moist conditions pushing new shoot growth in raspberries. Tough to get side-shoot burns done. Weeds loving things right now.

Whatcom County, Northern Washington

- **Blueberries/Raspberries/Strawberries:** (5/28) There has not been much change since the cool weather has settled in. Starling trapper catching lots of young ones already. Coyote pups on the prowl; they love drip tape.

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](#)

Skagit County, Northern Washington

- **Blackberries and Blueberries (Organic Production):** (5/28) Bloom on blackberries looks very good. I hope our Actinovate-Serenade-Kaligreen cocktails can protect them. Many re-sprays have been needed because of the incessant rains. We tilled fava bean, bell bean and vetch cover crops under last week. We're working Lilliston cultivators on the sides of the hilled beds and hoeing between plants to keep weeds in check with mixed results. Reka blueberries set early with some frost rings showing on early fruit. The Dukes have caught up to the Rekas in ripening and are starting to get ahead of them now. Bluejay is starting to put up some leaf canopy, while the other varieties have few leaves to support the crop so far. There's just no sun. No Spotted Wing Drosophila has been detected yet.
- **Blueberries:** (5/28) We've had over three inches of rain in Bayview, WA from Thursday night to Saturday morning! We should be re-applying fungicides, but, currently, we don't have any pontoon boats rigged up for spaying. SWD problems? I am beginning to think what the frost didn't get, and the shock doesn't get... the flooding will! The plants and fruit won't last long enough to get insect damage. Bees won't fly, but the bloom is basically over, with the exception of Elliott.
- **Raspberries:** (5/28) They continue to be slow. This weather is certainly not what they need. The good news--tractors are clean; shop is clean; floors have been swept (again!!); the coffee maker is getting plenty of exercise.
- **Strawberries:** (5/28) We have gone from predicting harvest as being early to being on time, and, now, we predict they will be slightly late.

Willamette Valley, Oregon and SW Washington

- **Blueberries:**
 - (5/28) Our Salem farm has received 2.64 inches of rain since mid May. The last fungicide is stale and the spray windows look slim for the coming days. Elliott just completed bloom although all varieties seem to have clusters in the pink stage. We are finding a little rot in a few green berries, presumably botrytis. Very low levels of worms, Blueberry Gall Midge and aphids are present throughout the farm.
 - (5/28) (Organic Production) The rain and cold are causing some green berry botrytis rot in the Duke fields as well as in some of the other cultivars. I'm going on with Kaligreen and Actinovate to make myself feel like I am doing something. Growth looks pretty good so far. Some smaller berries in the Bluejays may have been caused by the cold when they were in bloom. No SWD as of the past 3 weeks after a just a couple trapped earlier. I'm wondering where they are? Battling weeds as the plan to use vinegar is not working without sun. This is depressing.
- **Blackberries:** (6/1) My earlier predictions of a June 25 start for Marions are shot. Maybe July 1? The bees were out working whenever it was dry enough for me to be out; so, pollination should not be an issue. I have always heard that field reps were like snakes, whenever the sun was out you see them, now I am beginning to think maybe we are more like bees. The cooler weather is making the damaged fields look better than they are and the stronger fields look worse. Every crop (wheat, hops, berries, etc.) has a yellow tinge to it. We need some heat soon or a bad situation will get worse.
- **Strawberries:** (6/1) Strawberries are a real mixed bag. Southwest Washington fields should start harvesting for processed in a week. Right around June 7th or 8th. Most of the Oregon fields seem like they'll start about a week later. Unsettled weather along with an unsettled market has growers pretty nervous. Going on this week with weevil sprays along with fungicides. I'd think the slugs would be sick of eating strawberries and ready to move on to another crop. Maybe some of those little blue pellets.

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Spotted Wing Drosophila Update

[Click here](#) for information links.

Florida SWD Update for 5/26: [Click here](#).

West Coast monitoring update — North to South

- **British Columbia:** So far, the public monitoring program has recovered no SWD adults.
- **Whatcom County, Northern WA:** 1 SWD male has been reported in the last two weeks from a reliable on-farm source. Whatcom County Extension has a public site reporting on traps placed in fields where the growers have volunteered to share information. [Click here](#) to go to the site.
- **Skagit County, Northern WA:** 2 adult SWD (1 male, 1 female) have been verified from a raspberry field this past week. Doug Karr, Skagit County Pest Coordinator has begun monitoring in volunteered field sites. [Click here](#) to email Doug regarding trapping in area fields.

The number of fields and crops being monitored in each of the following WA and OR counties varies; so, the total trap counts cannot be directly correlated with each other. They should be viewed as indicators only. This pest can be very site specific. Any treatment decisions should be based on monitoring data/observations gathered directly from the field to be treated. [Click here](#) for regularly updated monitoring data from these counties.

- **Clark, Cowlitz & Lewis Counties, Southwest WA:** 1 female was caught in a strawberry field this week. A cherry orchard being monitored, which had low but consistent counts has been treated with Entrust.
- **Multnomah & Washington Counties, OR:** 9 females were recovered yesterday (5/31) from the habitat on the edges of berry fields. Salmonberry was the most prominent likely host in the habitat.
- **Yamhill & Clackamas Counties, OR:** 7 females were recovered this week. All were in cherry orchards.
- **Polk & Marion Counties, OR:** 1 female was recovered in a strawberry field adjacent to a cherry orchard. 14 females were recovered from cherry orchards. The orchards being monitored were schedule to be treated with broad spectrum insecticides this week.
- **Linn & Lane Counties, OR:** 1 female was recovered in a blueberry field on 5/31.
- **Jackson & Josephine Counties, Southern OR:** 1 male and 1 female were recovered from a blueberry field. 1 male and 17 females were recovered from cherry orchards this week.
- **Watsonville, California:** [Click here](#) (5/26, Mark Bolda, UC berry blog). "Traps are in blueberries, raspberries and strawberries. Most traps have zero flies retrieved, although 3 traps placed in an organic raspberry field with some older fruit discarded on the ground had 7 recovered over a week's time."

Pest Alerts

- **Just about any and all fungal diseases in all berry crops:** What we need most is a nice, mild dry spell. Maybe next week? In the mean time:
 - **Strawberries:** Processed crop is ripening and getting within days of first harvest. Botrytis fruit mold and other fruit molds are major threats. As the weather starts drying, Powdery Mildew will inevitably become very visible in many fields.
 - **Blueberries:** Bloom is finished and fruit is sizing and coloring. Major threats to the fruit are from Botrytis, Alternaria, and Anthracnose.
 - **Raspberries and blackberries:** Main cultivars are into various stages of bloom. The major fungal disease suppression activity is maintaining a regular bloom fungicide application schedule. Applying phosphite materials to aid in root development and help suppress root rots is also a potential action.
- **Slugs, 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.
- **Root Weevils, strawberries:**

Weevil management clarifications: *While the following information is, in general, accurate, there are a number of factors that complicate weevil management, a couple of those factors are:*

 - 1) **Some weevil adults overwinter** and emerge early in the season ready to lay eggs. These overwintering adults would not be controlled effectively under the following management regime.
 - 2) **There many different weevil species** affecting our crops. Each one has its own unique lifecycle. Management activities and timing of control applications need to be geared to the particular species.
 - 3) **General weevil management recommendations:** Root weevil pupae and adults are now being recovered as well as larvae in some strawberry fields. After emergence, it takes about 30 days before an adult (and they're all female) begins laying eggs. So, treatments for these 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.
 - 4) For more information on our major pest weevil species, click on the following: [Black Vine](#), [Rough Strawberry](#), and [Strawberry Root Weevils](#).

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New Meeting Information

- **June 3rd— OSU's North Willamette Research & Extension Center's Strategic Planning Summit:** 4 -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.
- **June 9th— OSU Strawberry Field day:** 1-5 pm at the North Willamette Research Station in Aurora. Details TBA.
- **June 17th— WSU Strawberry Field Day:** 2- 4 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 Spotted Wing Drosophila. Contact [Dr. Pat Moore](#) (253-445-4525) for more information.

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Crop Protection Materials Information

- **Pesticide worries prompt safety scuffle for California strawberries:** [Click here](#) (5/26, The Daily Democrat-Woodland, CA). This relates to concerns regarding the fumigation material, methyl iodide.

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Industry News/Resources

Newsletters

- **British Columbia Blueberry Council IPM Newsletter** for 5/29: [Click here](#).
- **The Source**, marketing news from The Produce News for 6/1: [Click here](#).
- **Michigan State IPM Fruit Newsletter** for 6/1: [Click here](#).
- **New Jersey Blueberry Bulletin** for 5/24: [Click here](#).

West

- **Strawberry harvest late in Oregon:** [Click here](#) (5/31, mycentraloregon.com)
- **In Eastern Washington, blueberries gaining popularity:** [Click here](#) (5/31, The Seattle Times) 90 million pounds this year?
- **Whatcom County is berry heaven, in the wild and on farms:** [Click here](#) (5/29, The Bellingham Journal)
- **Rains concern strawberry (and cherry) crop growers:** [Click here](#) (5/27, KGO News-San Francisco)

National

- **Michigan: Home away from Home; A tour of Farm Labor Housing:** [Click here](#) (5/26, Fruit Grower News)
- **Florida: Growers warn of danger to food supply (due to immigration issue):** [Click here](#) (5/24, Palm Beach Post)
- **Digging deeper into superfruits--Berries:** [Click here](#) (5/12, The Chicago Tribune)
- **Driscoll starts with unique MDF (pressed wood) packaging:** [Click here](#) (6/1, Freshplaza.com)

International

- **U.K.: Pollination in top fruit can be enhanced:** [Click here](#) (5/19, FarmingUK.com) A product called 'Pollinus'. I haven't heard of it before.

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New Pest Management & IPM Information

- **Light Brown Apple Moth identified in California Strawberries:** [Click here](#) (5/26, Mark Bolda, UC berry blog)

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.
- **[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.
- **[Anthracnose Ripe Rot](#)**, blueberries.
- **[Powdery Mildew](#)**, strawberries.

- [Blackberry Rust](#) (Phragmidium Rust) evergreen blackberries.
- [Yellow Rust](#), raspberries.
- [Mummyberry](#) blueberries.
- [Phytophthora Root Rot](#) raspberries.
- [Shock virus](#), blueberries.
- [Scorch virus](#), British Columbia blueberries.

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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.
- Scout for fruit disease symptoms and/or disorders.
- Scout for leafroller larvae feeding.
- Scout for scale insects.
- Scout for weevil notching.
- Scout for virus symptoms & send in samples for testing as needed.
- Can apply regular fungicides for fruit/blossom rot.
- After petal fall, can treat for Alternaria and Anthracnose prevention if needed.

Blackberries—

- 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—

- 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.
- Plan to put out pheromone traps for Strawberry Crown Moth in southern fields.
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Archived Small Fruit Updates

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

[05-25-10](#)

[05-18-10](#)

[05-11-10](#)

[05-04-10](#)