

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 8, 2010

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...And the year of wet fields continues. This red alert is becoming a regular feature. Hopefully the forecast, which shows a clearing and dry extended period starting this coming weekend, finally comes through. We're still hanging on to a potentially good crop season, but it has sure cost a lot more in fungicides and strain so far. So...

Fungal disease pressures continue... More warm and wet conditions, more vulnerable hosts, more fungal spores. Do everything you can to protect your investments from rots, molds, and rusts.

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/strawberries:** (6/7) Conditions continue to be ugly in B.C....one good sunny Saturday, followed by another washout on Sunday. Growers can't get their protective fungicides on. Lots of green fruit botrytis showing up in blueberries. Strawberries look surprisingly good so far, but mold will /could express itself with warmer weather and ripening.
- **Blueberries/raspberries:** (6/7) Not much new to report except the continued cost of protecting the small fruit crop in the face of seemingly constant wet and mild weather is really starting to weigh heavy on the growers. Some fellows have spent as much as last season's total already, and the need for further protection seems to continue in urgency with any spray window that is open. This is not including the cost to chewed up fields that look like war zones that will be hard to repair before harvest. It's tough to tell guys to keep at it, but the price

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](#)

for a letdown is high. Good thing optimism and toughness are part of the grower make-up because they need all of it right now.

Whatcom County, Northern Washington

Blueberries/Raspberries/Strawberries: (6/5) Wet enough, but not the drenching the forecasters warned about. There's some minor green rot in the strawberries, seeing a few orange and ripe berries, but we're still at least two weeks away from harvest except for the very early varieties and under tunnels. Lots of foliage, we could use some dry weather. Blues are kind of ugly. Lots of hail and frost damage, 1613's (Hardiblues) suffering from non-pollination issues. Raspberries still growing; 2nd round of fungicides is going on between showers. We could use more bee activity. Rust still a problem in some fields and more root rot is showing up.

Willamette Valley, Oregon and SW Washington

- **Blueberries:** (6/8) The green berry botrytis seems to be the biggest ongoing problem. There are debates about just how much good one more fungicide application will do at this point. More hail damage is present this year than any I can remember. Pollination problems only with the very late bloom. Some SWD preventative insecticides are going on timed to the fruit coloring. It's been a very intensive/expensive application year, but most growers seem on top of field management operations, and the crop is still holding together with very good potential in quality and quantity. As usual, it all depends on the weather from here on in.
- **Blackberries:** (6/8) There are fungicides going on whenever and however possible in all blacks. We are probably back to a normal start time for Marions, should just quit guessing start dates and when the first truck shows up, fire up the plant. Saw a bloom in evergreens; they look really good- so far very little rust. In Marions, the berries are forming and it looks like there are some poor pollination issues, but it's too soon to know how serious it is. Fields vary from 70 to 95 percent bloom depending on location and cold damage. In Kotatas, pollination looks good; they are pretty much done with bloom.
- **Black Raspberries:** (6/5) It's a bad year to be in blackcaps. First, the root rot problems are taking a big percentage of the potential crop, and now the rains are timed just about perfectly to interfere with pollination. Blackcaps have a blossom that turns upward and is prone to fill with water, making pollination a bigger issue than in other caneberries...and that is just what happened.
- **Strawberries:** (6/8) Processed harvest of some Tillamooks started this last Saturday (6/6) in SW Washington with fields ripening slowly and on a staggered schedule. Don't think we need to worry about a backup of trucks at the processing plants anytime soon. I guess the good news is that the quality and quantity can only go up. At least I'm pretty sure of that. Fresh market fruit, both day neutrals and June bearers are also coming into the markets and stands.

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Field Day / Meeting Information

- **June 9 — OSU Strawberry Field day:** 1-5 pm at the North Willamette Research Station in Aurora. [Click here](#) for the agenda. For more information contact 503-678-1264 x 110. A \$5 to \$10 donation per person is requested.
- **June 17— 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.
- **June 18 — WSU Extension, Whatcom County Blueberry & Raspberry IPM Field day:** 9:30-12, Boxx Berry Farm, 6211 Northwest Road, Ferndale, WA, RSVP to Dan Coyne: dcoyne@wsu.edu or (360) 676-6736. [Click here](#) for details.
- **June 30 — OSU Caneberry Field Day:** 1-5 pm at the North Willamette Research Station in Aurora. Details TBA.
- **July 8 — PARC Agassiz Berry Field Day,** 2-4 pm at the PARC Abbotsford Farm, 510 Clearbrook Road, Abbotsford. Updates on raspberry & strawberry breeding programs, blueberry cultivar evaluations, Spotted Wing Drosophila, berry research and industry issues...and ice cream too! For more information contact Chaim Kempler, 604-796-1716 Chaim.Kempler@agr.gc.ca.
- **July 14 — OSU Blueberry Field Day:** 1-5 pm at the North Willamette Research Station in Aurora. Details TBA.

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Pest management---Spotted Wing Drosophila Update

[Click here](#) for information links.

Oregon State SWD Website changes:

- [Click here](#) for the website.

- [Click here](#) to sign up for their email updates. They've just sent out the first one.
- **Oregon farmers on the lookout for fruit flies:** [Click here](#) (6/2, Oregonian)
- **(Grapes) Spotting the uninvited:** [Click here](#) (6/7, Oregon Wine Press)
- **Oregon State Video highlights fruit damaging fly found locally:** [Click here](#) (6/4, Mail Tribune-southern Oregon)

Northwest Westside monitoring update — North to South

- **British Columbia:** So far, the public monitoring program has recovered no SWD adults.
- **Whatcom County, Northern WA:** Whatcom County Extension reports one male trapped in a raspberry field west of Lynden. They are 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:** One adult male is being reported as recovered from a berry field in Skagit County this week. Doug Karr, Skagit County Pest Coordinator is 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: Cherry:** 2 males, 1 female. **Raspberry:** 1 male, 1 female.
- **Multnomah & Washington Counties, OR: Salmonberry:** 4 males, 2 females. **Blackberry:** 2 females. **Blueberry:** 1 female.
- **Yamhill & Clackamas Counties, OR: Cherry:** 1 male, 6 females.
- **Polk & Marion Counties, OR: Cherry:** 1 male, 8 females.
- **Linn & Lane Counties, OR: Strawberry:** 1 female.
- **Jackson & Josephine Counties, Southern OR: Cherry:** 9 females. **Peaches:** 1 female. **Figs:** 3 females.

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Pest Alerts –A repeat of last week's...

- **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.

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Industry News/Resources

Newsletters

- **The Source**, market updates from The Produce News for 6/7: [Click here](#).
- **Michigan State IPM Fruit Newsletter** for 6/8: [Click here](#).
- **New Jersey Blueberry Bulletin** for 6/1: [Click here](#).
- **Michigan State Blueberry Newsletter** for 6/8: [Click here](#). There an article about a new organic fungicide, [Regalia](#), made with an extract from the plant *Reynoutria sachalinensis* (giant knotweed) which, when sprayed on plants, activates natural plant defenses. Their trials indicate some activity against botrytis, Mummyberry and other fungal diseases.

West

- **California Giant plants new roots in the Pacific Northwest:** [Click here](#) (6/3, Produce News) A new facility located in Aurora, Oregon.
- **High land prices continue to threaten prospects for B.C. berry farming:** [Click here](#) (6/7, Business in Vancouver)

- **The story behind B.C. blueberries:** [Click here](#) (6/7, Freshplaza.com)
- **California lawmaker hopes to win one more for farmworkers:** [Click here](#) (6/3, Los Angeles Times) “His bill would grant standard overtime pay to laborers in the fields.”
- **Cool, wet spring slows some Eastern Washington crops:** [Click here](#) (6/4, Seattle PI)

National

- **(Michigan) Fruit growers report big losses after spring cold snap:** [Click here](#) (6/8, Detroit News) Reporting as much as 40% of the blueberry crop being affected.
- **(Maine) Wild blueberries on rise in frozen fruit market:** [Click here](#) (6/2, Bangor Daily News)
- **United Fresh responds to the Environmental Working Groups’ ‘Dirty Dozen’ fruit & vegetable listing:** [Click here](#) (6/5, The Packer)
- **Nutritional study: If Americans only ate the food advertised on TV, they’d consume 25 times the recommended amount of sugar & 20 times the recommended amount of fat:** [Click here](#) (6/4, NY Times)

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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.
- **[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**
- **Root Weevils, all berries:** For more information on our major pest weevil species, click on the following: [Black Vine](#), [Rough Strawberry](#), and [Strawberry Root Weevils](#).

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—processed harvest has started in SW Washington and Oregon

- 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](#))

[06-01-10](#)

[05-25-10](#)

[05-18-10](#)

[05-11-10](#)