



421 Birch Bay-Lynden  
Road  
Lynden, WA 98264  
(360)354-3577-office  
(360)354-1917-fax  
www.elenbaasco.com

# The Berry Good News

Volume 1, Issue 9

December, 2009

## Our "Berry" Field Staff:

**Gary Hertel**  
Manager/Field Representative  
(360)815-4853

**Steve Groen**  
Field Representative.  
(360)815-4328

**Jerel Kratt**  
Contracted Agronomist  
(360)410-9125

## On the Horizon:

- Frost protection
- Copper sprays for raspberries & blueberries
- Pruning and/or tying canes
- Apply Resist through drip or basal spray for root rot
- Pre- and post-emergence weed control

(Please see your crop advisor for specific recommendations for your situation. No guarantee is written or implied in this newsletter. Always follow manufacturer's label.)

**Editor's Note:** At this point, we are unsure of the date for our next newsletter. We will keep you posted on this development.

## Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

We wish all of our customers blessings for the upcoming holiday season and a productive and prosperous new year. We hope you all enjoy the slower time of the year to spend with family and friends. Despite whatever hardships, trials, or losses that might have occurred in the past year, this is the time of the year to remember that we all have much to be thankful for.

We especially want to take this time to thank you, the customer, for your patronage and loyalty. It is our goal to provide you with the best agronomic advice and products available. We approach all of our customers with honesty and respect, and we hope we showed that to you.

2009 was a year of tremendous growth for Elenbaas Agronomy, especially in the berry crops. We had to quickly expand our service staff and equipment to meet the growing demands and are proud to say that we were able to get product on-time to all our customers, even in peak demand. We expanded our liquid fertilizer injection equipment and have plans for a much larger tank farm for 2010. We also expanded our

capacity to service dry fertilizer. Overall, we've more than doubled sales in berry crops since 2007.

2009 was also a year of change. We saw the departure of Louise Vanieperen to a better place, and the arrival of Larinda Linville to work as agronomy office manager. Larinda is doing a terrific job.

During 2009, Gary battled colon cancer through surgery and seven months of chemotherapy. Gary is making a great recovery now and is excited to resume field work in 2010.

At the end of 2008, Steve Groen returned as field man for Elenbaas and is our top agronomy salesman. His expertise in field crops is unparalleled. He has a strong background in soil fertility and is growing his field work in berry crops.

2009 was also the first full year that Jerel Kratt came on board as a consultant/agronomist and berry field man for Elenbaas (starting in August of 2008), and also, it will be his last. Jerel has decided to work full-time for Actagro starting February 1, taking over the sales territory of a retiring Actagro employee in the southern San Joaquin Valley of California. This is the area Jerel is origi-

nally from, where he worked as a farm manager and agronomist for several years, and is where both his and his wife's family live.

The good news is Jerel will still be the Actagro Sales Representative for this area, and we will be seeing him for at least four full weeks a year (one week at a time, four or more different times per year). He will still be available to write recommendations for Actagro programs, to review soil and leaf samples, to walk your fields and to give advice during his visits. He will be available via phone or email to you and the Elenbaas Agronomy staff.

Also, we are extremely pleased to announce the return of Randy Kraght to Elenbaas Agronomy as a full time field man! Randy's experience and reputation in the berry industry is unparalleled. Randy and Jerel will be visiting you in January, to make ready the transition before Jerel moves. Randy, Gary, Steve, and Jerel will work closely together throughout the upcoming years to provide what we believe will be among the highest quality field advice in small fruits. We are very excited for 2010!

## Don't Forget to Apply More Copper

We're not sure if the sunny, dry weather will last until you receive this newsletter (too late: 3 inches of snow Sunday & Monday!), but we've been advising growers to apply their next round of copper sprays now (or when you can) if you haven't already done so. Copper is a very important preventative against many cane diseases and blights, especially as we approach the season with sub-freezing temperatures and bitter winds from the northeasters. Some growers apply hydrated lime with their copper at this time of the year. There are several options available: Cuprofix, Nu-Cop 3L and Kocide 3000 are three of our most popular products. Nordox 75 is also a popular choice for organic berry growers. Give us a call and we'll help you make an informed decision.

421 Birch-Bay Lynden Rd.  
Lynden, WA 98264



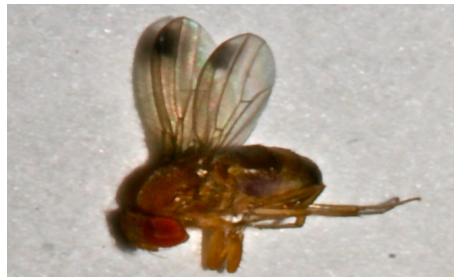
## Focus on Fertility: Zinc (Zn)

Zinc aids the synthesis of plant growth substances and enzyme systems and is essential for promoting certain metabolic reactions. It is necessary for production of chlorophyll and carbohydrates, plays an important role in the production of auxins (growth hormone), and is responsible for certain maturation processes. General deficiency symptoms include stunting of the plants and upward rolling of younger chlorotic leaves. Symptoms first appear on the younger leaves. Deficiency in corn is called white bud, because new growth turns white or light yellow. Other symptoms include bronzing of rice, rosette of pecans, little leaf of fruit trees, and severe stunting of corn and sorghum. In berries, symptoms typically are interveinal chlorosis and even blanching of younger leaves. High soil phosphate can increase the severity of zinc deficiency. Because Zn is critical to optimum plant and crop growth, any deficiency must be addressed. Some soils with normal-high levels can still be deficient (indicated on a saturated paste extract) because of tie-up with other elements, typically phosphate. Zinc foliar is the most common treatment and Actagro 6.5% Zinc has demonstrated superior uptake compared to other products in numerous research trials. Also, early phosphate fertilizer organically chelated with zinc (such as Actagro's Structure 7-21-1-.2Zn, 7% OA) can prevent early season Zn stress.

## Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD)

The following information is adapted from the WSU Extension Release (11-06-09) on the Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD): <http://suzukioregon.hort.oregonstate.edu/files/files/SWDRRelease11-6-09FINAL.pdf>

“Spotted wing drosophila, *Drosophila suzukii*, was introduced into California in 2008 and has rapidly established populations along the Pacific Coast. There have now been confirmed infestations of the fly in the Willamette Valley and throughout western Washington. Spotted wing drosophila (SWD) are documented pests on soft-skinned fruits including cherry, raspberry, blackberry, blueberry, and strawberry, and recent evidence indicates that they may feed on wine grapes. Western Washington entomolo-



Adult male of *D. suzukii* 2 days after pupation at 25C. Photo by Mike Reitmajer, Walton Lab

gists have observed SWD throughout the fall in association with Himalayan Blackberry and Evergreen Blackberry. Both of these old-world blackberry species are well established throughout western Washington and anecdotally are serving as a preferred host for SWD.

Adult SWD are small (2-3 mm) flies with red eyes and a pale brown thorax and abdomen. They have black stripes on the abdomen and males have a black spot toward the tip of each wing.

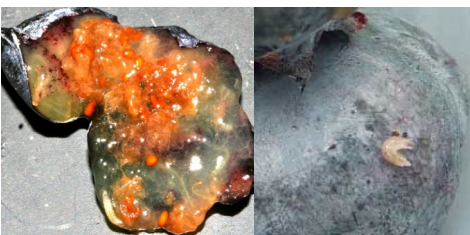
SWD is a “vinegar fly” but while most vinegar flies attack rotting or fermenting fruit, the new drosophila readily attacks undamaged fruit as well as rotting fruit. SWD poses an imminent threat to

growers and home gardeners in Western Washington. SWD has a short life cycle. Once the temperature has been achieved for an initial generation, subsequent generations can emerge in as little as one week or can take several weeks. [Our] area can anticipate up to 5 or 6 generations of SWD per year, with first emergence likely between mid-June and early July.

A management program has not been determined for this prospective pest. **[Some chemical treatments were mentioned at the small fruit workshop in Lynden last week—JK]** A successful integrated pest management strategy will need to focus on reducing breeding sites and controlling flies before they lay eggs. Once maggots emerge within the fruit, there are no available controls. SWD can be monitored with a variety of traps and research is underway to determine the most suitable and uniform method for sampling. Growers can make their production sites less attractive to SWD by removing ripe and overripe fruit. Fruit removal and heavy pruning of canes in fall has helped reduce the population abundance of flies.”

For more information, see also: <http://www.nwipm.info/calinfo/SWDOSUalert.pdf>

Also, stop in and visit with us and we can help outline some management strategies. Unfortunately, it looks this fly is here to stay.



Size comparison of larva and blueberry fruit. Photo on left by Mike Reitmajer, Walton Lab. Photo on right by J. Pond.