

# WASHINGTON RED RASPBERRY COMMISSION NEWS

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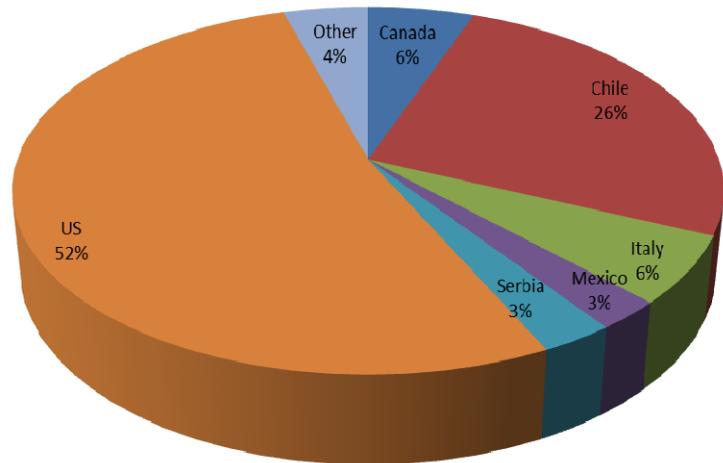
## National Raspberry Council Gaining Traction

It's been very rewarding to watch the development and initial progress of the National Processed Raspberry Council (NPRC). As a result of their formation and quick start raspberry growers now have:

1. Solid data on all domestic and imported raspberry production.
2. A sustained investment in targeted scientific studies indicating the benefits of eating raspberries.
3. A sustained promotion strategy for getting the health information into specific markets.
4. Communication vehicles (websites, social media, newsletters) for reaching consumers.

The Council and its committees meet face-to-face in both the spring and fall and numerous times throughout the rest of the year via teleconferences. May 29th at SeaTac was the 3rd on location board meeting. Please visit the NPRC website [www.redrazz.org](http://www.redrazz.org) for up-to-date raspberry promotional news or [www.ams.usda.gov/FVPromotion](http://www.ams.usda.gov/FVPromotion) for more information about research and promotion programs.

## 2013 U.S. Frozen Raspberry Supply by Country of Origin



## New Raspberry Varieties Preview



The machine harvesting field day will be at Randy Honcoop's farm, Lynden on **July 17th from 1:00-3:00 pm**. We will be harvesting the 2011 and 2012 plantings that day prior to the field day. Harvested fruit from the plots will be on display. Three WSU selections (WSU 1980, WSU 2166 and WSU 2188) that are being planted in Grower Trials this year will be fruiting in these plantings. All three of these selections harvest easily and have firm fruit. Two selections that were planted in the 2012 Grower Trial (WSU 1912 and WSU 1948) are fruiting in the 2012 machine harvest planting. There are also over 80 WSU selections in the 2012 machine harvesting planting that will be machine harvested for the first time this year and 80 selections that were harvested last year in the 2011 planting.

I encourage growers and processors to attend the field day. Your input is essential in deciding which selections best meet your needs and have commercial potential.

*Patrick P. Moore, WSU Berry breeder (253) 445-4525*

## WSU Releases Cascade Harvest (1507)

A new raspberry cultivar for machine harvesting has been released by Washington State University. It is named **Cascade Harvest** and plant breeder, Dr. Pat Moore, confirms that it has RBDV resistance and root rot tolerance. Testing to date has shown yields higher than Meeker, but further experience in commercial production is needed to confirm that. It appears to be slightly earlier than Meeker, with larger and somewhat lighter colored fruit. The flavor is excellent and it may be firm enough for IQF, although it has not been tested in commercial processing plants. The Machine Harvest Trials, at Honcoop and Sakuma Bros. Farms, have demonstrated that it machine harvests very well, although it may not be better than Meeker for fruit rot. Currently, this variety is in some larger scale plantings around the Pacific Northwest so more information and confirmation will be available this fall.

**Cascade Harvest** is patented by the University and will become available for limited 2015 plantings as plugs, and there should be hard root plants available for 2016. Talk to your Propagator/Nursery if interested.

This variety has been developed by a public university, with the support of the Washington Red Raspberry Commission, and is available to all growers, both here and abroad. The WRRC is forming a Plant Licensing Committee to work with WSU to manage these new varieties in international markets in a manner that is most beneficial for the University and for the growers who contributed to their development.



## **Washington Red Raspberry**

### **Commission**

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George Hoffman  
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Joan Yoder, *Advisory*  
Steve Midboe, *Advisory*

*Promotion, Fair Trade, and Research assistance for Raspberry Growers*

## **News Notes**

### **December Berry Meetings**

Plans are underway for the fourth annual Lynden Ag Show and NW Berry Conference to be held December 4-5 in Lynden. We are planning to have the WRRC Annual Meeting on the evening prior to the event—December 3rd. Learn more about the Conference and Trade Show at <http://whatcom.wsu.edu/ag/edu/sfc/>

Exhibitors are encouraged to contact WRRC, the WA Blueberry Commission, or the organizational team via the website.

### **Food Safety Update**

The Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) will up the ante on food safety issues. This act gives FDA new and enhanced mandates and authorities to protect consumers and promote public health. The WRRC has educational materials and forms from the seminars we sponsored with the WA Blueberry Commission the past two springs. The first step for farmers' food safety efforts to become Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) certified through a food safety audit. WSDA has a program to help you get third party certified. Contact them at 360-902-1833.

### **Labor Concerns**

Labor costs and availability are on berry grower's minds. WRRC and the WA Blueberry Commission brought the federal Dept. of Labor to our spring workshops. They spurred many questions and discussions. The end result moved towards an improved commitment by growers to comply with labor laws and DOL to enforce these laws in a manner that respects the challenges that growers have to comply.

In a related case Sakuma Brothers have chosen to not use the federal guest worker program in 2014. Their decision to use the H2A program in 2013 resulted in significant opposition from elements of the farm worker community. More background on this issue is available at [www.sakumafacts.com](http://www.sakumafacts.com).

### **Whatcom Water Districts**

Whatcom County raspberry growers are encouraged to be aware of a grassroots effort by many Whatcom farmers to organize watershed based irrigation districts this fall. These Watershed Improvement Districts (WID) will be based on farmed acres, led by farmers, and able to constructively address the multitude of water challenges (water rights, drainage, water quality, etc.) faced by all farmers. The WRRC endorses their efforts and suggests Whatcom berry growers add their support to the petitions to form these WIDs. Learn more at [www.wfcoop.com/ag-district-coalition/](http://www.wfcoop.com/ag-district-coalition/).

### **Nominations for WRRC Board Recruited**

Nominations for upcoming board positions will be received by the WA Dept. of Agriculture via phone in early September. They will be contacting growers in Districts #1 (NW) and #2 (SW) asking you to be thinking about who you want to represent you. Kristie Clark (District #1) has served you six years and is no longer eligible to be re-nominated. George Hoffman (District #2) is completing his first three-year term and is eligible to be re-nominated. We encourage you to be part of the nominating and election process so that you can keep your Raspberry Board responsive to your top priorities. The WRRC will also be considering appointments for our 2 Advisory positions. These are one year appointments currently filled by Steve Midboe and Joan Yoder.

### **Production Reports Due**

The Grower and Processor Report Forms are being mailed along with this newsletter. Please return your completed form prior to the due date to insure you are properly credited for your assessment dollars. E-forms are available at [www.red-raspberry.org/commission.asp](http://www.red-raspberry.org/commission.asp).

## **Calendar**

*Contact the WRRC office for information on each of these upcoming educational opportunities*

July 10 - WSU Mt Vernon Field Day - 3:30-6 pm - *Mt Vernon*

July 17 - Machine Harvest Field Day - 1-3 pm - *Honcoop Farm*

July 18-19 - NW Red Raspberry Festival - *Lynden*

September 10 - WRRC Board Meeting, 1 pm - *WRRC Office, Lynden*

October 29 - WRRC Board Meeting, 1 pm - *WRRC office, Lynden*

November 17-18 - National Raspberry Council meeting - *Seattle*

December 3-5 - WSU Small Fruit Workshop, Lynden Ag Show, WRRC Bd. Mtg. *Lynden*