



## WASHINGTON BLUEBERRY COMMISSION

*Serving the Blueberry Industry of Washington*

**To:** Members of the Washington Blueberries Industry  
**From:** Alan Schreiber, Director, Washington Blueberry Commission  
**Date:** 10/26/2012  
**Re:** Industry Update –

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**MRL Issues with Blueberries Going to Japan.** Recently fresh blueberries imported to Japan have tested positive for the insecticides, Intrepid and malathion at levels greater than the allowable limit. The levels were within the U.S. legal limit but below the lower MRL for Japan. There was a single violation for malathion and two violations for Intrepid. As a result, fresh and frozen blueberries shipped to Japan are being checked for pesticide residues. See the attached information from the North American Blueberry Council for more information on this topic.

**Eastern Washington Blueberry Field Day.** The Washington Blueberry Commission will host a blueberry field day on August 14<sup>th</sup> at the WBC research site at the research farm of Alan Schreiber. The field day will start at 9:00 am. Topics to be covered include labor (and H2A), weed control and blueberry varieties for eastern Washington, bird control and blueberry fertility. Lunch will be provided.

**Promotions.** The Washington Blueberry Commission has teamed up with the biggest celebrity chef in Seattle, Tom Douglas, to promote Washington blueberries at the Bite of Seattle and at SeaFair. These events are intended to promote in state consumption of fresh blueberries. Additionally, we have a campaign to promote on-farm and farmer's sales of blueberries. If you are interested in receiving some marketing materials for your local farm sales of blueberries, contact us. For more information, go to [www.superblues.net](http://www.superblues.net).

**Harvest Is Starting.** Blueberry harvest is starting. Remember to pay attention to your good agricultural practices. Producing safe blueberries is our responsibility.