

Spotted Wing Drosophila: A New Pest in Idaho

Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD) (*Drosophila suzukii*), an invasive vinegar fly that attacks multiple fresh fruits, is fast becoming a problem in the Pacific Northwest. Unlike most other vinegar flies that require damaged or rotting fruit to allow larval feeding, SWD causes its own damage when the female fly cuts a slit and lays eggs in healthy fruit. This insect is a pest of most berry crops, cherries, grapes and other tree fruits, with a preference for softer-fleshed fruit.

In the summer of 2012 Extension entomologists at the University of Idaho confirmed the first discovery of SWD in the state. The insects were discovered by a homeowner in **Latah County** who observed them in cherries on his property. Later that year SWD was also found in **Nez Perce and Canyon Counties** in Idaho and in **Asotin County** in Washington. It was confirmed in **Payette County** in 2013.

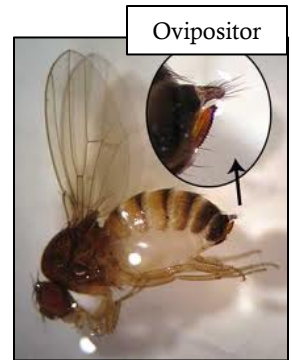
These discoveries are important for Idaho orchardists, grape growers and gardeners, who will want to place traps to monitor for the pests. If spotted wing drosophila does appear spraying or other control methods are an option.

Identification

Smaller than a grain of rice with a tan body and red eyes, the pest's most identifiable feature is a single spot on each wing of the male. The female lacks the spot but has a distinctive saw-like ovipositor on the tip of her abdomen.

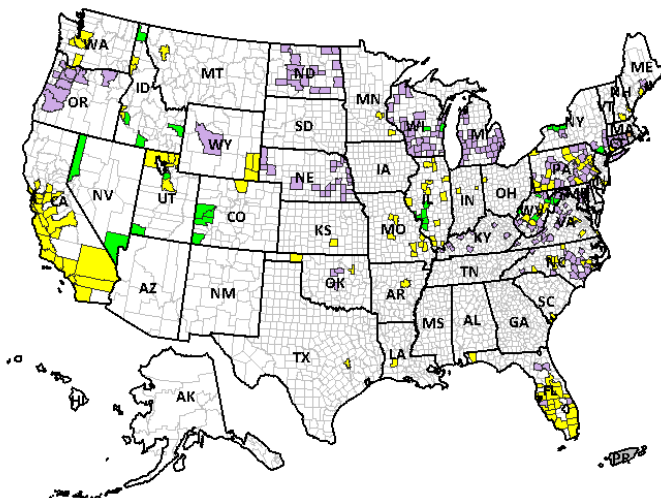


Male SWD



Female SWD

Survey results (2008-2014)



Legend

- Established by Consensus
- Established by Survey
- Being Eradicated
- Eradicated
- Found
- Not Found
- Survey in Progress
- No Survey



Survey status of SWD in U.S.

- USDA Pest Tracker



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Spotted Wing Drosophila Traps – Monitoring for Adults

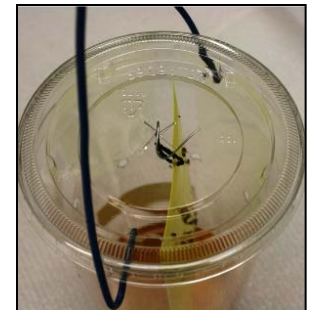
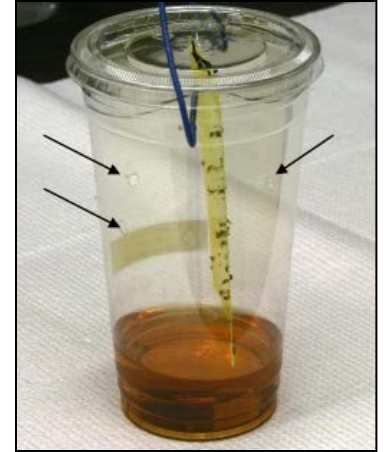
Information from the Oregon State University Extension Service



Monitoring the adult flight of SWD is important before and during fruit development beginning in the spring. Verifying pest presence is the first step in determining future management strategies. All home gardeners and growers are encouraged to do their own on-site monitoring for this pest using home-built traps described below.

Supplies

- Clear plastic disposable cup
- Fitted plastic cap
- Piece of yellow sticky trap card
- Metal hanger or wire
- Apple cider vinegar or sweet white wine



Steps to constructing a monitoring trap:

- Drill four or five 3/16" to 3/8" holes in side of the cup for entry of the flies. Leave a 3" pour space for vinegar.
- Cut a slot in the top of the lid to allow hanging of the sticky trap card.
- Affix a twist-tie or wire to the top of the yellow sticky card and hook to the top of the lid to allow card to hang above the vinegar.
- Pour 1 1/2" apple cider vinegar in the bottom of the cup, making sure to keep the sticky trap suspended over the liquid.
- Put the lid on the cup and place the trap in an area you wish to monitor in the vineyard, orchard or garden.
- One trap will service one acre. Place in or near the fruiting wire of the trellis or on the ground later in the season where thinned fruit may be lying.

Monitoring

- Begin monitoring when the daily temperature reaches > 50°F for several days. Collect the sticky traps on a weekly basis.
- Identify and count flies on the yellow trap and in the solution. Males are easily distinguished by the black dot on their wings.
- Females do not have black dots on the wings, but have a distinctive saw-like ovipositor on their posterior. A 30X hand lens may help see the serrated edge.
- Replace the sticky card and vinegar once a week.
- Attaching the sticky card to the top of the trap allows for easy access and counting.

Management

For information on management of SWD visit Oregon State University's web site at:

<http://horticulture.oregonstate.edu/group/spotted-wing-drosophila>

