

Drosophila suzukii (Matsumura)

Spotted-wing Drosophila



Photo by Shane F. McEvey, Australian Museum

HOSTS

Spotted-wing Drosophila (SWD) have a wide host range but prefer soft skinned fruits including blueberries, strawberries, raspberries, cherries, blackberries, grapes, peaches, plums, tomatoes and melons.

LIFE HISTORY

Adults and maggots closely resemble the common vinegar fly, *D. melanogaster*, and other *Drosophila* species that attack primarily rotting or fermenting fruit. SWD, however, readily attacks undamaged fruit because the female's saw-like ovipositor allows it to pierce the fruit skin and deposit eggs within the flesh.

Adults are small flies about 1/16 to 1/8 inch long with red eyes and a pale brown thorax and abdomen with black stripes on the abdomen. The most distinguishable trait of SWD males is a black spot near the tip of each wing. Females lack these spots.

Larvae are tiny, white cylindrical maggots a little longer than 1/8 inch when fully grown. One to several larvae can be found feeding within a single fruit. After maturing the larvae partially or completely exit the fruit to pupate.

DAMAGE

SWD larvae feed on healthy, intact, ripening fruits, primarily thin-skinned soft fruits such as raspberries, blackberries, blueberries, strawberries, grapes, plums and cherries. SWD larval feeding may result in brown, sunken areas on the fruit, with the symptoms sometimes not visible until after the crops have been harvested. In addition to the damage caused directly by the larvae, feeding makes the fruits susceptible to infestation by other insects, rot fungi and bacteria.

SWD, native to Asia, was found in the US (California) for the first time in 2008. In 2012 it was collected in Idaho.



Photo by E. Beers, Washington State University



Photo by E. Beers, Washington State University



Photo by E. Beers, Washington State University