

Spotted Wing Drosophila (9/2017)

Here is some information on Spotted Wing Drosophila, a relatively new insect pest that attacks ripe fruit, especially in late summer and fall. Raspberries and blueberries are especially susceptible. This

Test ripe fruit for infestation: do a salt flotation test to determine how many SWD larval are present. See: https://u.osu.edu/pestmanagement/files/2015/05/SWD-saltesthandout_reduceFileSize-10mk2gw.pdf

Refrigerate fruit as quickly as possible; storing at 32- that may be present.

If spraying, use a tight schedule (5-7 days) once crop is ripening and SWD have been confirmed at or near the crop. Spraying in the evening may increase residual efficacy because some materials degrade more quickly in sunlight. SWD may also be more active in the evening especially when the weather is very hot.

Add Nu Film P at 4-16 oz per 100 gal with all materials to improve insecticide efficacy. If it rains after you spray a material, re-apply if the label allows.

Here is the current list of insecticides labeled for small fruit for SWD, courtesy of Mary Concklin at UConn Extension. Always read the label to be sure of rates and restrictions.

http://ag.umass.edu/sites/ag.umass.edu/files/news/pdf/insecticides_for_small_fruits_for_sw_d_2017.pdf

Organic growers: Entrust (spinosad) is the most (only?) effective insecticide. It needs to be rotated with another material per the label, and is limited to 3 applications. Some growers have had success alternating Entrust and Pyganic on a 5-7 day basis, spraying in the evening to reduce photodegradation.

Consider insect netting on smaller plantings. This must have < 1mm mesh, be applied before ripe fruit are present, and edges must be sealed. ProTekNet 80 or 25 are available from several local suppliers (80 is much more durable.) <https://www.berryprotectionsolutions.com/>
<http://www.brookdalefruitfarm.com/irrigation/BIC%202017-1sm.pdf>

Detailed information on SWD identification, biology, monitoring and management is at:

<https://extension.umass.edu/fruitadvisor/spotted-wing-drosophila>

http://www.ipm.msu.edu/invasive_species/spotted_wing_drosophila/factsheets

Feel free to contact me with questions or concerns.

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