

Monitoring Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD) in a Q-Bait

Spotted-wing Drosophila (SWD) is a pest of many fruit crops. It is a fly that is very similar to the common fruit fly, but it has a distinctive black spot on its wing. SWD is a pest of many fruit crops, including apples, grapes, and strawberries. It is a pest that is very difficult to control, and it can cause significant damage to fruit crops. The following procedure describes how to monitor SWD in a Q-bait.

Next, we got some 4 oz plastic cups with lids (urine sample cups, actually...don't ask) and cut a large hole in the lid. Over the hole we placed fine insect netting, and fastened it with a hot glue gun. The netting is to allow the yeast odor out, but not let flies in. So the assembled trap is a large red cup. Inside that you will place 2 oz of liquid bait

(formula below). Floating upright in that bait will be the smaller cup with the insect netting in the lid. Inside the smaller cup will be the flour and yeast bait (formula below).

Research proves that this bait combination is very effective. Research also shows that if you mix the liquid bait with the yeast/dough bait, you quickly get a slimy mass that is impossible to examine for SWD. That's why we keep the two baits separate. We mix up a fresh batch of bait every week. The liquid can be stored for a few days in a refrigerator, but the yeast/flour bait must be fresh.

Checking the traps - To check the trap, remove the lid, remove the insert cup and set aside. Pour the liquid bait into a shallow white pan or saucer. In bright light, examine for the male flies (they have a dot near the tip of each wing) with a 2X magnifying glass. We no longer put yellow sticky cards in the traps... too much

Highest risk crops seem to be: August & September

