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Massachusetts IPM Berry Blast

July 8, 2013

Spotted Wing Drosophila UPDATE



During the past week, trap captures in Massachusetts have increased moderately from 2 females and 1 male the last week of June to 6 females and 1 male the first week of July. These captures were from 3 out of a total of 15 locations checked; one in Franklin County, one in Hampshire County and one in Hamden County. Traps were mostly in the border areas

around bearing fields (Blueberry or Raspberry), but one capture was from traps within the canopy of sweet cherry trees. For most growers, this means that spray programs should begin if SWD was found on the farm last year and there is fruit ripe or ripening soon (blueberry, raspberry, cherry, currants/gooseberries).

See <https://extension.umass.edu/fruitadvisor/spotted-wing-drosophila> for more info.

Surrounding states are beginning to report significant increases in trap captures. Notably Connecticut has reported increased numbers from traps in raspberries and blueberries with a small amount of infested fruit found. Similarly, Rhode Island has reported a significant increase in trap captures and some fruit with larvae collected from blueberry and raspberry plantings. It is very likely that this marks the onset of higher infestation potential in Massachusetts, too.

Growers should have traps out to monitor what is happening in their fields, and should be ready with their management plan. See See tables at <https://extension.umass.edu/fruitadvisor/spotted-wing-drosophila/management> for

recommended spray materials (organic and conventional) and other suggested actions to reduce damage from SWD. Remember to add 2 pounds of sugar per 100 gallons of water to the spray tank with all insecticides EXCEPT the pyrethroids for increased pesticide uptake by the SWD.

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