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Massachusetts IPM Berry Blast

June 12, 2013

Spotted Wing Drosophila UPDATE

The UMass Extension Vegetable & Fruit IPM team is monitoring 15 sites across the state for both Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD) and Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB).

Traps are set out at these sites and are being checked once a week in order to monitor the development of both of these pests and inform alerts that will go out to fruit and vegetable growers and others.



Example photo of two female Drosophila flies that are (left) and are not (right) spotted wing Drosophila. The dotted green line indicates the well-developed and darker serrated ovipositor of the female spotted wing Drosophila.

On Monday of this week (6/10/13), one female SWD was captured in one trap in Western MA. This does not necessarily launch the SWD season as we have no way to know if this was an overwintering female or one brought up on the recent weather fronts (e.g., tropical storm 'Andrea'). So this find should not, by itself, trigger the start of anyone's spray

program since no other positive captures have been found in other MA traps or reported from nearby states. But, it does indicate that growers and others should be anticipating the start of the SWD season soon and should be monitoring traps intensively for the next week or two for the start of consistent captures.

Traps are catching many species of fruit flies at this time of year, so it is important to check them carefully for SWD. The photo above illustrates that some other species can look similar to SWD. The key feature for female SWD is the extremely large, dark and serrated ovipositor (circled above), and for the males is the dark spots on the wing margins (see link below to access ID photos).

For more information about SWD please refer to the UMass Extension FruitAdvisor webpage at: <https://extension.umass.edu/fruitadvisor/spotted-wing-drosophila>. This page will be updated frequently with information relevant to growers about this important pest.

Photo credit above: Rufus Isaacs, Michigan State University.

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