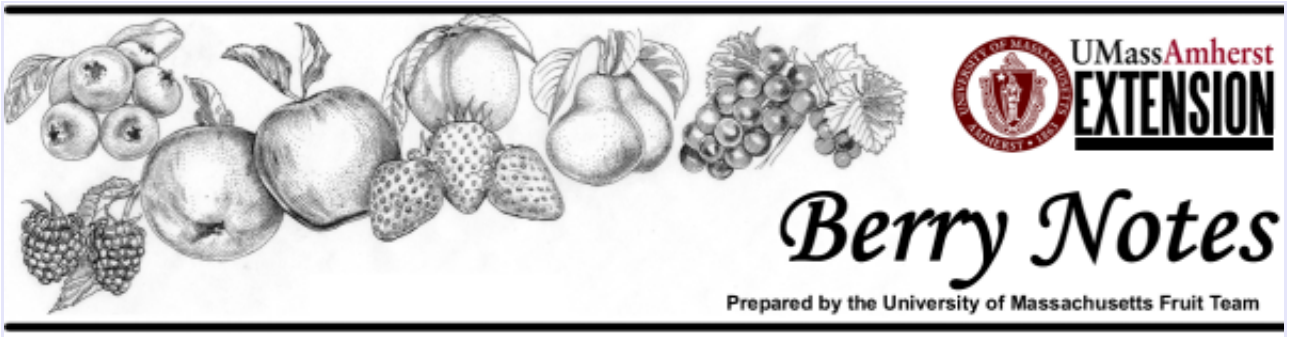
Here is the newest issue of Massachusetts Berry Notes from the UMass Extension Fruit Team.



Massachusetts IPM Berry Blast

July 26, 2013

Spotted Wing Drosophila UPDATE

STRAWBERRY

Spotted Wind Drosophila

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.

Up until now, trap captures have been relatively low with mostly individual females caught in scattered locations. Last week we began to see more males caught, but trap captures were still low with 50% of traps catching some and an average of under 2 findingp counting only those with positive captures. This week the number have jumped to over 60% of traps catching some and an average of over 8 males and over 6 females per trap with positive captures (i.e., not counting traps with no SWD). One location had a combined number of male and female SWD of approximately 100 per trap.
Other states are reporting similar findings. Connecticut reported an increase in male captures last week and is finding low levels of fruit infestation (larvae) in both raspberries and blueberries this week. Rhode Island is findind somewhat higher levels of trap captures as well as levels of fruit infestation. New Hampshire is finding variable trap captures but with some as high as 135. Some locations in every state still have zero SWD in the traps.

However, this is likely to change.

Growers should go to their state's SWD Information and Recommendation Web Page for specific information for their state. In Massachusetts see: https://extension.umass.edu/fruitadvisor/spotted-wing-drosophila. In New Hampshire see: http://extension.unh.edu/New-and-Invasive-Pests/Spotted-Wing-Drosophila-SWD.

The main crops at risk now are summer raspberries and blueberries. Some growers are reporting infestations in sweet/tart cherries, too. Dayneutral strawberries may also be at risk. Growers should set out and monitor traps in their fields to know what is happening on their farms. Remember to harvest frequently (daily if possible), and thoroughly and avoid allowing fruit to fall to the ground if possible. Transport harvested fruit as quickly as possible to refrigeration. Spray recommended materials (organic or conventional) on a tight schedule (5-7 days). Some recommend spraying in the evening to 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. Also, it is recommended to add 2# of sugar per 100 gallons of spray solution to all materials except pyrethroids (which don't show increased efficacy from this addition). In fall raspberries (primocane fruiting), narrow the rows to 18" or so at the base and thin or open the canopy to allow for better air circulation, light penetration and spray deposition throughout the canopy. This is true for both conventional and organic operations.

(photos courtesy of Dr. Alan Eaton, UNH Extension)

Archived IPM Berry Blasts are available at the UMass Extension Fruitadvisor website.

We thank Nourse Farms for their underwriting of this newsletter which allows us to keep subscription rates low.

Archives at:
http://extension.umass.edu/fruitadvisor/publications/berry-notes
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