



CARIBBEAN PLANT HEALTH DIRECTORS

PROTECTING CARIBBEAN AGRICULTURE

Spotted Wing

The Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD) known as "Drosophila suzukii" is a vinegar fly originally from Southeast Asia. This small fly has been introduced to Hawaii, California, and most of the West Coast. Recently, it has been detected in North and South Carolina, Florida, Utah, and Michigan have spread throughout North and South America, Europe, and Asia.

What does it do?

The Spotted Wing Drosophila infest cultivated and wild fruits such as apricot, blueberry, blackberry, cherry, peach, plum and nectarine. Female SWD lay eggs under the ripe skin of fruit before harvest, the hatched larvae feed within the fruit and softens the fruit. The holes left by these larvae are easy entry points for diseases like brown rot and botrytis.



1.0

SWD Larvae in Strawberry



1.1

SWD female leaves holes in
Cherry



1.2

Cherry being destroyed inside by
SWD larvae

(Image credit - Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs - Ontario.ca)

What can we do?

- Destroy and remove any old fruit that has fallen.
- Fallen or infested fruit must be collected and placed in a sealed plastic bag.
- If you suspect fruits are infested, place the fruit in the refrigerator to slow or stop the development of the larvae, there is no known human health risk from eating SWD.
- Insecticides such as carbaryl, malathion, Spinosad and pyrethrin can be used against SWD but it must be used in the evening as to not harm honeybees and pollinators. Insecticides must all be interchanges as SWD can be develop resistance.