New Fruit Pest of Eastern Colorado

Spottedwing drosophilid

*Drosophila suzukii*

aka “spotted wing drosophila”
Most *Drosophila* feed on yeasts – the common “fruit flies” of overripe fruit.
Males of *Drosophila suzukii* can be distinguished by a spot on the wings
Spotted wing drosophila attacks ripening fruit
Many fruits are hosts of spotted wing drosophila.
Fall bearing strawberries and raspberries appear to be the fruits at greatest risk in Colorado.
Egg left on surface of berry

Egg laid below surface of berry
SWD Life Cycle

1. Eggs laid in healthy fruit
2. Adults (20-30+ days)
3. Pupae
4. 3 larval instars
Spottedwing Drosophilid – What To Look For

• Small maggots in ripening fruit
  – Rapid fruit softening results from injury
  – Raspberries, strawberries most likely to be noticed as infected

• Adult male has a spot on the wings
Cups filled with apple cider vinegar (or merlot wine!) effectively capture SWD
Management of Spottedwing Drosophila

• Thoroughly and frequently pick ripening fruit
  – Store in refrigerator/rapidly use fruit
  – Destroy culled fruit in manner that kills developing larvae
• Shift to early bearing cultivars
• Mass trapping?
• Netting?
• Insecticide?
Control of SWD

Thoroughly pick all ripe fruit regularly (2-3X weekly)
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Spinosad – Can it be used effectively – and safely – for spottedwing drosophilid control in home gardens?
Spinosad in home gardens

Can only be applied if bees will not be visiting plants within 3 hours after application!
Night time applications are required!