

June 20, 2016

The first spotted wing drosophila of the season were captured in some sweet cherries in the Palisade area last Friday. There were several males and females in one trap.

This capture is much earlier in the season than in the past years. It is also the first local western Colorado capture in a crop other than raspberries or blackberries.

I do not know the significance of the capture, whether it will become a pest on its own or not. All fruit growers should keep an eye out for softening fruit at harvest, filled with tiny fruit fly larvae. They are small enough that they are difficult to see with the unaided eye, but look for larval movement within the flesh of the fruit.

There is a lot of information on biology and management of SWD available on line. Here are a couple good sites.

Oregon: <http://spottedwing.org/>

Michigan: http://www.ipm.msu.edu/invasive_species/spotted_wing_drosophila

Feel free to contact me at bob.hammon@mesacounty.us or 970 244-1838 if you have questions.

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