

OCCURANCE OF SWD AT HIGH ELEVATIONS IN VACCINIUM HOSTS IN WASHINGTON STATE

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The spotted wing *Drosophila* (SWD) has a wide host range, many of which are economically significant crops. SWD adults are able to utilize both unripe and ripe fruits. Since the introduction of SWD into North America, SWD has the opportunity to utilize many new host plants.

During the huckleberry picking season of 2013, WSU Extension received four different inquiries concerning 'wormy' berries. On August 26th, end of season huckleberries were pick at lower elevations and peak season berries were picked at higher elevations. Fields in production were a mixture of *Vaccinium ovalifolium* and *V. membranaceum* however *V. ovalifolium* dominated the sites visited. The following sites are estimated locations. Thirty-eight berries were collected at site one [Peterson Prairie Camp Ground (elevation 2976; 45.968738, -121.657901)], 50 at site two [Hidden Lake (elevation 4000; 46.048522, -121.741446)] and 50 at site three [Clear Lake (elevation 5150; 46.024502, -121.782077)]. Berries were placed individually in 1 ounce cups and checked regularly for emergence of adult flies.

Beginning September 10th, adult flies were collected and identified through the next three weeks. At site one, *Drosophila* emerged from 47% of the berries; 18 of 24 flies were identified as SWD. At site two, *Drosophila* emerged from 38% of the berries; 20 of 22 flies were identified as SWD. At site three, *Drosophila* emerged from 18% of the berries; all nine flies were SWD adults.

All sites are located in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest around Indian Haven Wilderness area. The area is dominated by huckleberries and cranberries, where eleven species of *Vaccinium* are found. The Sawtooth huckleberry field is extremely product. Humans have harvested berries for the past 10,000 years from this location.