

Section IX. Extension & Consulting: Updates and Notes from the Field

SEASONAL HISTORY OF SPOTTED WINGED DROSOPHILA IN A BACKYARD HABITAT

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Spotted Winged Drosophila (SWD), *Drosophila suzukii* (Matsumura), were reared from blueberries at 7555 Conifer in September 2009. Four traps for SWD were placed in this backyard habitat on Feb. 25, 2010, and monitored weekly. The traps consisted of lidded 16 oz. plastic cups, drilled with holes and baited with apple cider vinegar. The backyard is approximately 2500 sq m and includes apple, blueberry, pear, persimmon,

raspberry and tomato as larval hosts. Ripe or overripe fruit was available for oviposition from late June through December. Insecticides were not applied.

Two SWD were caught in March; but no more were trapped until Jul. 25, when four flies were captured. SWD catch increased slowly in August and September with 118 flies captured on Sept. 26. There was a sharp rise in trap catches in October and November with a peak of 9315 flies on Nov. 15. Capture plummeted to 47 flies in the last week of November, probably due to freezing temperatures. Trap catch increased again in December, reaching 1309 flies the third week of December. A total of 28599 SWD were trapped in ten months, with 28053 (98%) captured between Oct. 5 and Dec. 19.

Ripe fruit from the study site was picked and eaten throughout the season, but no SWD larvae were detected. However, *Drosophila* larvae did emerge from overripe, decaying apple and pear collected from the ground in October. The surge in SWD trap catch occurred a few weeks after large numbers of overripe pears dropped to the ground. This population explosion also occurred after commercial fruit harvest was completed in the Willamette Valley.

