

Spotted wing drosophila (*Drosophila suzukii*) is an invasive fruit fly that attacks soft fruit, including berries and cherry. The larvae damage ripening fruit. For region-specific information, please contact your local Giving Grove partner.



Appearance:

- Adults are fruit flies 1/12 to 1/8 inch long, with red eyes and single spots on the wing (male) or unspotted wing (female)
- Larvae are tiny (1/8 inch long) white maggots with a cylindrical body that tapers on one end

Damage:

- The larvae feed within the ripening fruits causing brown, sunken areas.
- Infested fruit often develop a fermented or a sour smell
- Fruit softens and then rots

Timing:

- Adults first appear during late June or early July
- The numbers increase rapidly during the middle of summer, with the populations peaking in August
- Eggs are laid on fruit as it ripens

Treatment:

- Remove old, infected or damaged fruit to reduce Spotted Wing Drosophila food resources.
- Prune plants to allow for air movement
- Monitor using traps (instructions in the link below).
- Refrigerate or process fruit after harvest
- According to studies, the insecticide Spinosad is effective and has the least negative environmental effects of currently available products.

Sources: Patrick L. Byers, Horticulture Specialist and Michael Phillips, "The Holistic Orchard"