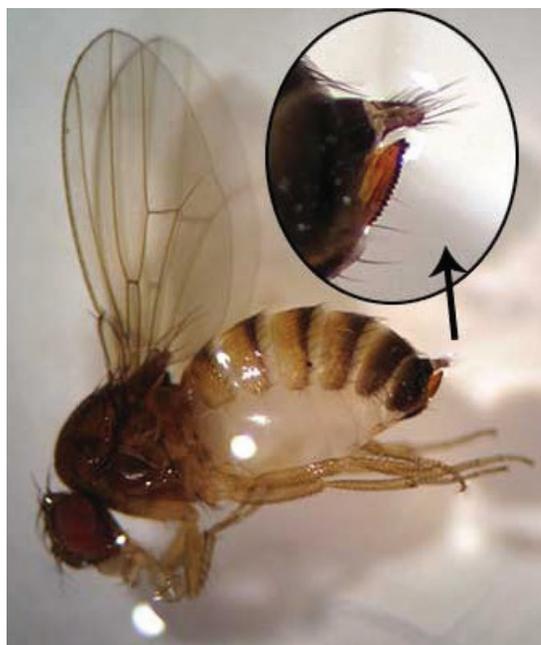




## Spotted Wing Drosophila

SWD (*Drosophila suzukii*) is native to Southeast Asia, preferring warm temperatures and therefore going through many more life cycles per year than the fruit fly we are all familiar with. First found in BC in 2009, SWD is now distributed over all fruit production areas of the Fraser Valley and the BC Interior. Unlike our regular fruit fly which only infests fallen, over-ripe or decaying fruit, SWD lays eggs in harvestable fruit while still on the bush. While the regular fruit fly is only annoying, SWD will cause crop loss. No one wants to bite into a blueberry and find a maggot in it. All types of fruit crops, and many wild fruit plants, are subject to infestation.

SWD is hard to tell apart from regular species of fruit fly. For those with good eyes and in possession of a magnifying glass, the photographs below show the distinguishing features of SWD adults. If you cannot spend the time and effort to monitor for SWD on your own, and/or find it difficult to identify them, you can hire monitoring firms to routinely check your farm.



**Figure 2:** SWD Adult Female, with ovipositor.  
Photographs from Dr. Sheila Fitzpatrick, Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada at Pacific Agri-Food Research Centre in Agassiz.

Although producers depend on consistent chemical applications to achieve control, cultural methods that should be adhered to include good sanitation, removal of alternate wild hosts where possible, and good fruit handling (ie: use shorter picking intervals, frequent harvesting, moving harvested fruit into cold storage quickly).

Above all, it is very important to learn all you can, and to participate in population monitoring.

### Controls:

Every year a number of insecticides receive emergency registrations. Inquire with the TerraLink Sales Desk or the BCMA for the current list of emergency registrations. Some insecticides have full registrations for SWD; those being Exirel (Group 28), Imidan 70W (Group 1B), Delegate WG (Group 5), Success (Group 5) and Entrust SC (Group 5). Entrust SC is approved for organic production. Make sure to check each label as they are not all registered on all fruit crops.

### References:

BC Ministry of Agriculture web page on SWD. <http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/cropprot/swd.htm>. Downloaded June 26, 2015.



**Figure 1:** SWD Adult Male, with wing spots