

SPOTTED WING DROSOPHILA (*DROSOPHILA SUZUKII*): STATUS IN ATLANTIC CANADA

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Continued monitoring efforts in Atlantic Canada, revealed further range expansion with the first records of capture having been confirmed for various sites in Newfoundland in 2013. Since the initial finds, all four Atlantic Provinces continue to capture SWD in traps. In Nova Scotia, first captures in 2014 were in the first week of July, approximately two weeks earlier than the previous year. In spite of high populations in the fall of 2013 and an early first detection this summer, trap captures remained low until mid-August. A cool and wet spring, and lower heat unit accumulations in the summer months, may explain the observed decrease in trap captures from those observed in 2013, over the same monitoring period. Similar to previous years, a number of fields suffered moderate levels of fruit infestations, although this was predominantly observed in commercial raspberries. Growers remain diligent with monitoring and the application of sprays.

In addition to area-wide monitoring efforts, research is ongoing with specific focus on the development of both degree-day and dynamic simulation models that will allow for better timing of monitoring and management in eastern Canada. This is a collaborative effort with bioclimatology researcher Gaetan Bourgeois (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada). Pest performance trials are also underway on highbush blueberry, fall-bearing raspberries, and wine grapes. Year-round emphasis is now focused on the potential role of alternate hosts along crop borders that may support SWD populations. Despite the potential risks, overall fruit inspection has confirmed that fruit quality in Atlantic Canada remains high.