

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

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The fly is now considered an invasive pest in Atlantic Canada. Climate analysis conducted by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, showed that Nova Scotia (NS) could be at high risk for establishment of this insect, however, monitoring did not detect SWD in 2010. Continued survey efforts in 2011, confirmed the first record for SWD in NS. In 2012, monitoring efforts were extended to New Brunswick (NB) and Prince Edward Island (PEI) and survey results showed first detections in both provinces. In 2013, the first records of capture were confirmed for various sites in Newfoundland. Trapping in NS saw a 50-fold increase in SWD captures from the previous year (2011) and fly numbers continue to rise in 2013. First captures in 2013 for Nova Scotia were around the third week of July. A number of fields across various crops suffered moderate levels of fruit infestations.

Initial trials have been conducted on highbush blueberry and wine grapes to examine SWD performance and preference. I am still analyzing the data. We are now setting up our habitat suitability study that will monitor the pest throughout the Fall and winter seasons. Since this is a new pest to Atlantic Canada, continued research that is specific to this region will clarify the risk level that SWD poses to the small fruit industry in the east. Despite the potential risks, overall fruit inspection has confirmed that fruit quality in Atlantic Canada remains high and current research efforts in BC and the USA have demonstrated that this pest can be managed.