



# SWD Research Priorities

US Blueberry growers and their supporting industries are facing a critical pest management problem caused by the recent introduction into North America of the exotic vinegar fly *Drosophila suzukii*.

In response, the USHBC has developed the following list of research priorities to **direct as many resources as possible toward projects that can best minimize the immediate economic impact this insect is having on our growers.**



# SWD Research Priorities

USHBC Good Practices Committee appointed SWD subcommittee.

- Committee members:
  - Mike Mainland
  - Tom Peerbolt
  - Dave Trinka



# #1 - Accelerate the Development and Implementation of Regional Insecticide Management Programs

- Best short term response to this exotic insect pest
- Maximize efficacy and minimize resistance
- Application technology BMPs
- Deposition



# #1 - Accelerate the Development and Implementation of Regional Insecticide Management Programs

## Considerations:

- Many different types of application equipment
- Multiple row applications are standard
- Spray volume vs. a.i. concentration
- Use of adjuvants, feeding attractants, repellants
- Pesticide rates



## #2 - Develop Practical Risk Forecasting and Assessment Tools

- Population dynamics/degree day models
- Field monitoring systems which can be used as indicator of risk
- Specific, accurate, and easy to maintain
- Field border habitat management recommendations



# #3 - Pesticide Residue Management

- MRL issues
- Maintain worker and food safety standards
- Effects of weather and spray additives on residues and efficacy



# #3 - Pesticide Residue Management

## Considerations:

- Pesticide residue degradation curve development
- Effects of temperature, UV, rainfall, adjuvants
- Grower guidelines to meet MRL restrictions
- Harmonization of MRLs



# #4 - Postharvest Handling and Kill Steps

- Managing fruit with infestations
- Postharvest guidelines
- Processing /sorting technologies
- Meeting export market phytosanitary requirements





# #5 - Organic Production Options

- Field management
- Importance/practicality of field sanitation
- Organic control materials



## #6 - Coordination and Communication

- Regional differences
- Some overlap and redundancy is necessary
- Coordinated research efforts applauded by growers
- Stakeholders are in crisis mode
- Prompt communication of results (even if unverified) are better than “waiting for the paper to be published”
- Direct as many resources as possible toward projects that can best minimize the immediate economic impact this insect is having on our growers