

In this Issue >>>

Current News
Identifying SWD
How to Spot Imposters
Meet the Team
Ask The Experts



Issue Two

For more information see SWD Website: spottedwing.org

Identifying the Fly Pest, SWD



Meet the Team

Amanda Ohrn
OSU Faculty Research Assistant

Developing partnerships to manage SWD for the benefit of fruit growers

The SWD FLYer

Current News >>>

D. suzukii adults found overwintering in rotting fruit

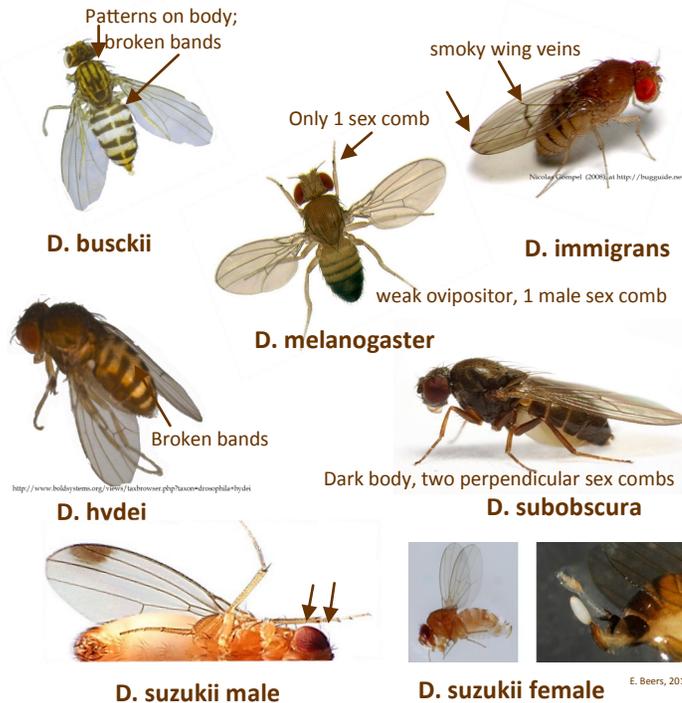
Several cases of SWD adults were found within fallen rotting apples under unkept trees in the Willamette Valley Oregon over the winter months (Feb. – Mar). Sanitation can be an important but under-emphasized component of integrated pest management (IPM) programs. Fallen fruit of various species (e.g., apple, fig, persimmon), even those that are not SWD ovipositioning hosts, can provide SWD with a food resource as the fruit begins to decompose. Clean up is key to managing pests and diseases.



Imposters! How to Spot Them...

There are many species of *Drosophila*, and it is important to be familiar with them when looking for *Drosophila suzukii* (SWD).

[Photo Credits to: G. Arakelian, S. Valley & J. Vlach, M. Hauser, E. Beers, L. Barrantes, M. Durham]



General Characteristics of *Drosophila suzukii*:

- ◆ Golden brown body, 2-4 mm long; red eyes
- ◆ No multiple patterns on body
- ◆ Dark, *unbroken* bands around abdomen
- ◆ Small branched antennae (aristae) on head



Female SWD

- ◆ A unique **ovipositor** for sawing into fruit and laying eggs— large and prominent with dark teeth compared to other *Drosophila* species.

Male SWD

- ◆ Two black comb-like bands with 3 to 6 teeth run parallel on each front leg, as shown above
- ◆ Dark or smoky spot near the leading edge of each wing; spotless males exist, but are rare.



Take a Closer Look! There are other species of *Drosophila* with similar characteristics. Make sure you are identifying SWD correctly with the help of the Oregon Department of Ag SWD key and an OSU identification webinar:

oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT_suzukii_id_guide10.pdf
gpdn.org/webinar_2012

Ask the Experts

Q: What is the difference between spotted wing and other species of *Drosophila*?

A: *Drosophila suzukii*, commonly referred to as spotted wing Drosophila (SWD), can lay eggs in certain species of ripening fruit on the plant, which is what makes it such a damaging pest. Other species of *Drosophila* lay eggs in rotting fruit on the ground which is already unmarketable.



Amanda was bitten by the entomology bug at an early age, but didn't take an academic interest in the subject until later in life. After earning her bachelor's degree in music from the University of Puget Sound, Amanda came to OSU in 2007 to study botany, receiving her Bachelor's degree in August, 2010. During her studies, she happened upon an entomology class, where her passion for insects was rekindled. Amy and Amanda met shortly thereafter, and Amanda was hired as a temporary employee. In January 2010, she officially became Amy's research assistant.

Studying spotted wing Drosophila has given Amanda the opportunity to appreciate the many challenges that Oregon growers face, and she is excited to learn all she can in an effort to help them.

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