Summary of 2016 Spotted Wing Drosophila Regional Reports – CT, MA, NH, and VT

Connecticut - SWD were first found in blueberry and blackberry fruit on July 7. Populations remained low through most of July increasing in early August. Blocks that were treated on a 5-7 day schedule were virtually SWD free. Growers that extended that to 8 or more days found their fruit heavily infested. Populations continued to be a concern into late September.
Submitted by Mary Concklin

Massachusetts - UMass monitored SWD emergence with a trapping network of 9 locations around the state. Each location had 2 traps; one with Suzukii Bait and Trecé lure, one with soapy water and Trecé lure. Traps were first set out the week of June 5 and bait/lures were changed at 4-5 week intervals. Traps were monitored weekly in most cases. Salt flotation tests were carried out on fruit several times at each location.

Early reports of SWD activity from Pennsylvania and Ontario prompted worries about an early onset of SWD in New England. First capture occurred on 7/8 but sustained captures did not occur until 7/18, which was approximately the same as in prior years. Population levels seemed to remain relatively low through mid-August. Drought conditions that prevailed during this time seemed to suppress population development.

Primocane fruiting raspberries and blackberries continue to be the most significantly impacted by SWD. Elderberries also seemed to be heavily infested as well as late season blueberries. Wine and table grapes have mixed reports with the main issue coming where fruit damage has occurred from either bird depredation or fruit cracking following sudden rainfall. Modifying the crop canopy to allow for open air-flow and light penetration to the base of the plants has been recognized by growers as a critical component to successful SWD management. Seven issues of Massachusetts IPM Berry Blast, https://ag.umass.edu/fruit/ipm-berry-blast contained information on pest status and management.
Submitted by Sonia Schloemann

New Hampshire: SWD (*Drosophila suzukii*) populations were roughly the same this year as we experienced in 2015. We have switched to using the new Trecé lures and traps, and we use apple cider vinegar as the drowning solution. To make it MUCH faster, we only count the males.
This year the first adult trapped was July 6th (usual time). The buildup roughly followed what we expected, with a major jump in numbers about September 5th to 10th. The cooler regions (lakes region, Sullivan county, and North country) had much lower SWD populations than the southeast, but showed higher counts than in previous years, after September 5th.

We anticipate learning more about the impacts of this year's SWD infestations after we have conducted the annual end-of year interviews with the growers participating in our trapping (monitoring) program. In the past, the most significant losses were in blueberries and brambles. So far we have detected no injury to our limited cherry crop, and none confirmed to June-bearing strawberries. We had SWD traps at approximately 23 farms this year, in 7 counties.

This year we posted SWD catch at our SWD monitoring page on the web https://extension.unh.edu/resource/spotted-wing-drosophila-ipm-weekly-scouting-reports. We thought this would be more informative for many growers than the brief verbal summary that Alan write and records each week for the Fruit Pest Update telephone 603-862-1734 that runs continuously from April 1 through mid-September each year.
Submitted by George Hamilton and Alan Eaton

Vermont – No trapping occurred at the UVM Hort Farm in 2016. SWD issues were erratic around the state - reports from the field indicated up to 50% loss in fall raspberries in Huntington (NW) and hardly any loss in Rochester (Central). They were moderate down south in fall raspberries - virtually no reports of blueberry infestation this year. Concord grapes in Vern Grubinger's home planting that are usually loaded with fruit flies, were not infested.
Submitted by Ann Hazelrigg