

Issue 6 – July 16, 2024

Fruit Crop Report



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Pest Update: Spotted wing drosophila

Conditions have been ideal for rapid spotted wing drosophila (SWD) population growth to economically damaging levels. SWD is being observed in all fruit crops currently being harvested, including strawberries, saskatoons, sour cherry, and just starting in raspberries.

A pause in harvesting is recommended to consider a SWD control application using products with pre-harvest intervals (PHI) of 1-2 days. Spraying at dawn or dusk will be the most effective time to control SWD. Refer to [Province of Manitoba | agriculture - Spotted Winged Drosophila \(gov.mb.ca\)](https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/spotted-winged-drosophila/) for control options in saskatoons, strawberries and raspberries.

A weekly application of approved insecticides is quite effective at controlling SWD and protecting the berry harvest from damage. Control measures should start at the same time as the berries ripening colours start to occur.

Use apple cider vinegar traps as an indicator of when SWD are present, and the crushed berry salt test to determine population levels.

Harvest ripe berries frequently, and cool berries quickly after harvest. SWD stop growing in the berry and eventually die at cool refrigerator temperatures. Remove unmarketable fruit and crush in alleyways.

Save the Date! Horticulture School returns August 1, 2024, in Portage la Prairie.
To register click on link...[Horticulture School August 1, 2024](#)
