

# Northern Michigan FruitNet 2015

## Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center

### Special Update

Special FruitNet Report 08/07/15

#### Calendar of Events 2015

- 8/11      **Grand Traverse County IPM Updates**  
         Wunsch Farm
- 8/27      **2015 Open House**  
         Northwest Michigan Horticulture Research Center

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### Spotted wing drosophila report – August 07, 2015

N. Rothwell, E. Pochubay, and K. Powers, NWMHRC

Spotted wing Drosophila trap counts continue to rise this week. At the NWMHRC, we are at least one week out on insecticide sprays, and most cherries that are left on the tree are infested with SWD larvae. These insects have a tremendous capacity to build populations extremely quickly, especially in warm summer temperatures.

As some growers are still harvesting tart cherries and Balatons, we cannot emphasize enough that this fruit must be adequately covered with an effective insecticide to prevent larval infestation of fruit. We recommend full covers as half covers are not effective in preventing infestation, particularly as the populations continues to build. If growers are wondering if they have larvae in fruit prior to harvesting a block, we recommend conducting a salt test. Directions for such a test are as follows:

#### Supplies:

1. Salt (common table salt)
2. Warm water
3. Zip-top bag (gallon or quart size)
4. Suspicious fruit: about 50 cherries per plastic bag

#### Directions:



Figure 1. SWD larvae



Figure 3. SWD infested cherries with wet appearance

1. Mix 1 tablespoon salt into 1 cup of warm water. For a larger quantity, mix 1 cup of salt into 1 gallon of warm water.
2. Put fruit in zip-top bag. Pour salt water solution into bag, completely covering the fruit. Close bag. Try not to crush the fruit so that larvae will be easier to see.
3. Allow fruit to sit in salt water solution for about 20 minutes.

Look for maggots floating to the top of the solution in the bag. Larvae will come out of the fruit when disturbed by the salt water; they are white,

head-less, leg-less, length of 1/8 inch (Figure 1). In addition to the salt test, SWD-infested fruit have a drippy appearance. Female SWD sting the fruit to lay the eggs, and small pinprick holes resulting from egg laying are evident on the fruit (Figure 2). Cherry juice often comes out of the pinprick holes, and we have been able to recognize infested fruit on trees as the overall appearance of that fruit looks wet (Figure 3). Lastly, eggs of SWD are distinctive and can be seen in and on fruit that is infested. SWD eggs are small, white, and an oval shape with two obvious string-like breathing tubes that emerge from one end of the eggs (Figure 4). If growers need help in identification of SWD, please contact the NWMHRC for assistance.



Figure 4. SWD egg with breathing tubes. Photo courtesy of Ministry of Agriculture, BC.

## Final IPM Update Meeting in Grand Traverse on August 11th

Emily Pochubay, Nikki Rothwell, and Duke Elsner, NWMHRC

Please join us for this season's final IPM Update meeting on Tuesday, August 11th from 3- 5 PM. This meeting will be held at Wunsch Farms Phelps Rd packing shed on Old Mission. Coming off of two hard winters, the 2015 spring was also unforgiving following freezing temperatures around May 20th that were damaging to many of the area's tree fruit orchards and vineyards. Late spring and into early summer wet spells posed major challenges with keeping tissues protected from diseases, and finally, a severe storm system that brought high winds and hail passed through on Sunday (8/2) impacting a west-east band of orchards and vineyards across the northwest. At this final meeting, we would like to recap the 2015 season to discuss what worked well or not so well and next steps for finishing the season. Although we typically focus on tree fruits, we encourage grape growers to attend this meeting, and Drs. Annemiek Schilder and Duke Elsner will be joining us to discuss grape disease management and other grape topics. Thank you all for your continued support of the NWMHRC, MSU Extension, and Michigan's fruit industries!

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## NORTHWEST MICHIGAN HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTER ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE

The Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center's (NWMHRC) annual open house is scheduled for Thursday, August 27, 2015. This year's event will include an equipment show, wine tasting and dinner, and the Leelanau Horticulture Society's annual meeting. In addition, Greenstone Farm Credit Crop Insurance will be holding a discussion reviewing current fruit policies, as well as introducing the new Whole Farm Revenue Protection policy. This new policy is aimed toward specialty crop, and diverse growers. Discussion will include a short powerpoint outlining the basics, followed by a short Q and A.

The grounds to the exhibit area will open at 1:00 p.m., and equipment vendors will be on site. Free educational wagon tours of the NWMHRC featuring MSU specialists will take place from 3:00-4:45. The tour will include winegrape and tree fruit specialists that will speak on a variety of topics: disease management, vine health, insectary plant plots, cover crops, high density Montmorency plantings and the recent over-the-row harvest that was held at the NWMHRC. Growers are encouraged to meet with equipment vendors during the social hour from 4:45 – 6:00. Dinner and the Leelanau Horticultural Society's annual meeting will follow at 6:00.

As in past years, the equipment show, social hour, and dinner is sponsored by the Leelanau Horticultural Society and Parallel 45 with the educational portion sponsored by AgBioResearch, MSU Extension, and the NW Michigan Horticultural Research Foundation. To reserve or purchase a dinner ticket, please call (231) 946-1510 or email Jenn at [goodr100@msu.edu](mailto:goodr100@msu.edu) by August 20, 2013. The dinner will be catered by *Ethnic Garden Catering* and will feature locally produced food; cost for dinner tickets is \$10 per person.

For more information, contact the NW Michigan Horticultural Research Center at 231-946-1510. We hope to see many of you at this fun and educational event!

