

Be on the lookout for spottedwing drosophila

Written by Whitney Cranshaw, CSU entomologist

The spottedwing drosophila (*Drosophila suzukii*) is an insect of Asian origin that was first discovered in North America in 2008.

This insect has caused considerable concern because it is capable of damaging intact ripe fruit, particularly soft-fleshed fruit such as raspberries, strawberries and grapes.

The injury from this insect that is most likely to be observed is the presence of numerous, tiny pale-colored maggots in the flesh of ripe berries. If reared to adulthood, males of this species are identifiable by having a dark spot on the forewing.

The first Colorado record of this insect was from Fort Collins in 2012. It is important that surveys be done during the upcoming season to identify other areas where this important pest may have become established.

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