



Photo: Katja Schulz



Spotted Wing Drosophila

What Is It?



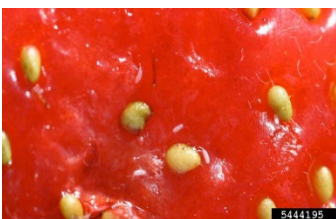
A male spotted wing drosophila. Photo: Martin Cooper, Wikimedia

The spotted wing drosophila (*Drosophila suzukii*) is a small vinegar fly from East Asia that lays its eggs in softer, thin-skinned fruits, such as berries. The spotted wing drosophila is able to lay its eggs in healthy fruit that is still ripening, as opposed to other vinegar flies that only attack rotting fruit.

Is It Here Yet?

Yes. It has been in the Pacific Northwest since 2009.

Why Should I Care?



Spotted wing drosophila eggs. Photo: Hannah Burrack, N.C. State University, Bugwood.org

This fruit fly's tendency to attack healthy fruit instead of rotting fruit makes it particularly problematic. Fruit infested with spotted wing drosophila larvae will rapidly become mushy and moldy. The damage done by these pests causes costly losses for fruit growers.

What Are Its Characteristics?

- Tan body, red eyes.
- The male has dark spots on the ends of its wings; the female is more difficult to identify.
- The larva starts small and typically goes unnoticed until the fruit becomes rotten, but its presence may be indicated by small dark spots on fruits and rapid molding. Small dark tan pupae (life form between larva and adult) often may be seen protruding from the surface of the infested fruit.

Report Sightings

[Invasivespecies.wa.gov](https://www.invasivespecies.wa.gov)



Spotted Wing Drosophila

How Can We Stop It?

The spotted wing drosophila occurs throughout Washington. To reduce damage, home gardeners and farmers may use pesticides, apply physical barriers, sanitize their gardens, and reduce adjacent alternative hosts such as Himalayan blackberry.

What Should I Do If I Find One?

Report immediately via the WA Invasives mobile app or reporting web form at <https://invasivespecies.wa.gov/report-a-sighting/>.



Photo: Katja Schulz, Wikimedia.