

# Sanitation Practices for Spotted Wing Drosophila

The proper disposal of dropped, overripe or cull fruit is very important to prevent the development and spread of spotted wing drosophila. Flies will emerge from culls on the ground, cull piles and compost heaps to cause further damage to unharvested host fruit. This poses a risk of fruit being rejected at packinghouses and the market place, which have a zero tolerance for infested fruit. It is strongly recommended that growers, packers and home gardeners apply the following sanitation practices to help minimize the potential crop losses due to this new aggressive pest.

## Commercial growers

- Remove and bury cull fruit to a depth of 12 inches or tie up in heavy duty construction black garbage bags. Do not compost cull fruit.
- Preliminary data from Oregon State University indicates that placing 1-2 ml clear polyethylene plastic (with UV inhibitor) over an infested fruit pile and tightly sealing it will kill larvae and pupae after 1 week.
- Similarly, Australian fruit fly programs recommend bagging fruit in plastic and leaving in the hot sun for a minimum of three days.
- Spotted wing drosophila will survive in grape pomace piles therefore all vineyards should manage pomace piles to reduce the spread of this pest.



Cull pile near an orchard

- A post harvest clean-up spray is strongly recommended in all sites with spotted wing drosophila to reduce population levels and spread of flies into other ripening host fruits (e.g. peaches and grapes).
- Manage wild hosts such as salmon berries, and wild blackberries.

## Packinghouse facilities

- Keep equipment and processing areas free of waste fruit.
- Bury cull fruit to a depth of 12 inches or tie up in heavy duty construction black garbage bags. Refer to information for commercial growers for further information on managing cull fruit.
- Commercial synthetic pyrethroid products registered for fly control in food handling areas such as Prelude and Dragnet (permethrin) can be used in the packinghouse.
- Apply products with a back pack sprayer when the packinghouse is not operational; do not broadcast. Follow label instructions.
- Prelude and Dragnet can also be used outdoors; labels are posted at:  
[http://pr-rp.pmra-arla.gc.ca/PR\\_SOL/pr\\_web.ve1?p\\_ukid=7485](http://pr-rp.pmra-arla.gc.ca/PR_SOL/pr_web.ve1?p_ukid=7485)  
[http://pr-rp.pmra-arla.gc.ca/PR\\_SOL/pr\\_web.ve1?p\\_ukid=6356](http://pr-rp.pmra-arla.gc.ca/PR_SOL/pr_web.ve1?p_ukid=6356)

## Home gardeners

- Remove overripe, rotting, fallen and leftover fruit and dispose of by
  - burying to a depth of 12 inches
  - tying up in plastic bags or sealing in plastic bags and placing in the sun for three days or freezing for at least two days before disposal.
- Do not compost infested fruit as home composting will not kill flies.

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*August, 2010*