A new pest has arrived in Hillsborough County that could affect production of strawberry, blueberry, raspberry and other thin, soft-skinned fruit. In August, 2009, the spotted wing drosophila (SWD) (*Drosophila suzukii* (Matsumura), Diptera:Drosophilidae) was discovered in the northeast corner of the county after having been known about 1 year in California and for less time in Washington. This fly, originating in the Orient, appears very much like the common drosophila flies that accumulate on over-ripe bananas, flats of strawberries left without refrigeration, old fallen citrus, and other fruit beginning to spoil. In fact, both are small, have prominent red eyes and, indeed, are closely related. Wing tips of SWD males have a dark spot that is lacking in our common drosophila (Fig. 1). Female SWD possess serrations on their egg laying organ that can cut soft surfaces of sound fruit to lay eggs inside. Common drosophilid flies are without that modified ovipositor. SWD eggs that hatch inside fruit become white maggots that can soften and ruin fruit in the field or can accompany harvested fruit undiscovered until the fruit are in consumers’ hands. There presently are no restrictions to be placed on fruit from infested farms.

This group of small flies often is called the pomace flies, vinegar flies, or the fruit flies, but use of “fruit flies” in this case is confusing since that common name applies to larger flies, the Tephritidae, often problematic and reported in the news media. Tephritids include banded winged flies of concern such as Mediterranean fruit fly, Caribbean fruit fly, Oriental fruit fly, Mexican fruit fly, and others. Drosophilid flies are not closely related to tephritid flies and management of the two groups can be vastly different. For instance, rare outbreaks of Mediterranean fruit fly in Florida are managed in part with mass releases of sterilized male Mediterranean fruit flies. This technique has not been developed for drosophilids and is impractical to consider in most cases. The SWD is expected to survive well in Florida’s climate and, given the swift colonization of California, strawberry growers should expect to encounter this fly in winter 2010 and beyond. The degree of interference to production is clearly unknown. However, management plans are surfaceing. Presence of SWD on a farm could be ascertained by sweep-netting and observing Drosophila spp. attracted to strategically placed bait containers of rotting fruit or of bait prepared from aged bananas mixed with a package of yeast activated by warm water.

By,
James F. Price and Curtis Nagle
University of Florida

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**Fig 1. Male spotted wing drosophila**

For further information about management strategies for this pest request a full copy of this article from your Alachua County Commercial Horticulture Agent. Email: agazula@ufl.edu Phone: 352-955-2402

For persons requiring special accommodations, please contact Aparna Gazula at (352) 955-2402 (voice) or TDD/TYY (352) 955-2406 or at the Alachua County Extension Service, 2800 NE 39th Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32609. Please contact the Extension Office at least five working days prior to the program so that proper consideration may be given to the request. Upon request, for persons with print-related disabilities, this newsletter is available in alternate format. Funding for the duplication of this publication is provided in part by the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners.
Renewing Your Pesticide License With FDACS - Be Prepared for Longer Wait Times

Growers who have had to renew their Private Applicator Restricted Pesticide License recently have found that they had a very long wait to receive their new license. After talking with the FDACS Bureau of Compliance Monitoring which handles your license renewals, I found that due to budget cuts their department has taken from the state that they are short staffed and things are taking longer to get done. First your renewal goes to a finance department that processes your payment and that is taking at least a week longer and then it goes to the person that checks your paperwork and issues the new license and they tell me they are taking about a week longer than in the past. With all the delays in processing you could find your operation without a To try to prevent a delay in receiving your license renewal, here are some things I would advise you to do. When you receive your license renewal in the mail, which typically comes 6-8 weeks before your license will expire, have your paperwork ready and send it in right away. The longer you wait the greater the chance you will not get your renewal back before the expiration date. Know your renewal date and be sure you have the continuing education units (CEUs) you need for renewal before you get your renewal notice. For a Private Applicator license you need 4 Private Applicator CEUs and 4 CORE CEUs for every 4 year renewal cycle. Do not wait until the renewal notice comes in to try to find all your credits. Call me early and we can start working on the credits so you can have them by the time you receive your renewal notice. Fill out your renewal paperwork and don’t forget to include the check for the renewal fee. Be sure on your CEU paperwork that you have filled in the top part of the paperwork with your information and be sure to sign the CEU form. Also be sure you mail in the correct number of CEUs for each category. You can always have more but you must have at least 4 for each category.

By, Alicia Whidden
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Upcoming Programs

Private Applicator Agricultural Pest Control License Training

Friday October 23, 2009
8:30 am - 1:00 pm
Alachua County Extension Service
2800 NE 39th Avenue
Gainesville, FL 32609

Pre-registration required
Registration fee is $5.00
Register by: October 21, 2009
For further information call 352-955-2402
CEUs: 2 CORE, 2 Private Applicator

Fall Blueberry Short Course
October 22, 2009
W. Central Florida Agricultural Center
7620 State Road 471
Bushnell, FL

Pre-registration fee is $12.00 for Florida Blueberry Growers Association Members, and $25.00 for non-members. Booth registration in $200 and includes 1 person.

Registration form and program agenda on Page 3 of newsletter.

Shiitake Mushrooms
November 14, 2009
11:00 am
Alachua County Extension Service
2800 NE 39th Avenue
Gainesville, FL 32609
Pre-registration required
Call: 352-955-2402 to register
Learn the basics of shiitake mushroom production. Shiitake mushrooms are grown on oak logs. You will learn how to prepare and inoculate the logs for shiitake mushroom production.

Earn One Ag Row, Ag Tree, or Private Applicator CEU Online

Read the article “Taking Down Disease” on www.floridagrower.net and then take the test.

Link to the article: http://www.growingproduce.com/floridagrower/?storyid=2462
For further information contact Aparna Gazula your Commercial Horticulture Extension Agent at 352-955-2402, email agazula@ufl.edu
Fall Blueberry Short Course - Thursday, October 22, 2009
West Central Florida Agricultural Center, 7620 State Road 471, Bushnell, FL

Agenda

8:00 a.m.  Late Registration (visit trade show) Note: late registration at the door does not guarantee a meal.
9:15 a.m.  Welcome – Ms. Susan Kelly, county Extension director, Sumter County, IFAS, University of Florida, Bushnell, FL.
9:25 a.m.  Getting the most out of FAWN (the Florida Automated Weather Network) – Mr. Rick Lusher, information technology specialist, IFAS Information Technology, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL.
9:50 a.m.  Instruments for evaluating freeze events – Mr. Chris Oswalt, county Extension agent, IFAS, University of Florida, Polk County, Bartow, FL.
9:50 a.m.  Meet the new blueberry breeder – Dr. Jim Olmstead, Horticultural Sciences Department, IFAS, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL.
10:00 a.m. Break – visit trade show
10:30 a.m. Pollinators in decline – Mr. Jerry Hayes, chief, Apiary Inspection Division, Department of Plant Industry, FDACS, Gainesville, FL.
11:00 a.m. Update on the block grant to study stem blight in Florida – Dr. Phil Harmon, plant pathologist, Plant Pathology Department, IFAS, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL.
11:20 a.m. Update on the block grant to study mechanical harvesting of blueberries in Florida – Dr. Jeff Williamson and Dr. Steve Sargent, Horticultural Sciences Department, IFAS, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL.
12:10 p.m. Lunch (visit trade show)
1:30 p.m.  FBGA Business Meeting – Ms. Donna Miller, president, Florida Blueberry Growers’ Association, Inverness, FL.
1:45 p.m.  Update on USHBC activities – Mr. Ken Patterson, grower and Southeastern USHBC representative, Island Grove, FL.
2:00 p.m.  Title TBA - USHBC, Mr. Mark Valada,
2:30 p.m.  Overview of southern highbush cultivars available from the University of Florida – Dr. Paul Lyrene, Horticultural Sciences Department, IFAS, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL.
3:00 p.m. Adjourn
Latest University of Florida/IFAS Extension Publications

“AP-4’, a Medium Maturity, Large Seeded Peanut Variety with Resistance to Tomato Spotted Wilt.” This factsheet describes this peanut variety released by UF/IFAS in 2007 based on its competitive pod yield and excellent seed grade total sound mature kernel percentage (TSMK), providing the results of tests in three locations over three years. http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AG334

“Sunn Hemp - A Cover Crop in Florida.” This factsheet describes this green manure crop that has been grown for centuries in Southeast Asia — origin and distribution, description, uses, production and harvest, and seed production. http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/TR003

“Sustainability Assessment of Fruit and Nut Crops in North Florida and North Central Florida.” This article summarizes the degree of adaptation of deciduous fruit and nut species in Florida and identifies cultivars that are recommended for trial in various locations in Florida. http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/MG367

“Florida Crop/Pest Management Profile: Pecan.” This factsheet profiles this nut crop commercially grown in the northern and western regions of the state — production facts, regions and practices, as well as management of mites and insects, weeds, diseases and nematodes. http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/PI217

“Florida Crop/Pest Management Profile: Atemoya and Sugar Apple”. This factsheet profiles production facts, regions, and practices; pest management recommendations; and key contacts for Florida producers of these deciduous tropical fruits of the Annonaceae family. http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/PI057

“Citrus Cold Weather Protection and Irrigation Scheduling Tools Using Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) Data”. This factsheet provides an overview of the water saving tools that are available to citrus growers on the FAWN Web site — the Cold Protection Toolkit and the citrus microsprinkler irrigation scheduler. http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/SS509

If you need paper copies any of these publications email agazula@ufl.edu or request a copy from your Alachua County Extension Service.