



## The Ohio State University Extension Vegetable Crops

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**Do You Have Sensitive Crops?** Brad Bergefurd, Extension Educator Horticulture, OSU Extension Scioto County and Piketon Research & extension Center, [Bergefurd.1@osu.edu](mailto:Bergefurd.1@osu.edu) and David Dugan, Extension Educator, OSU Extension Highland/Adams/Brown Counties

As a grower of fruit and vegetable crops in Ohio these crops are sensitive to pesticides. The news release below from the Ohio Department of Agriculture discusses agriculture enterprises that are sensitive and a new registry to hopefully help make others aware of the presence of the risks of damage. In addition to this registry it is also a good idea to share the concern and make your neighbors aware of your production operation. Often things happen because people are unaware of the situation.

Agriculture: The department announced last week that it will launch the Ohio Sensitive Crop Registry, a voluntary informational tool that will provide a method for applicators and growers to communicate effectively.

Users of the registry that was designed by the ODA's Plant Health division can outline their sensitive locations on maps, which allow pesticide applicators to search the maps and locate these areas, according to a department release. The registry is for pesticide-sensitive crops, as well as organic crops and apiaries that meet the registration requirements.

"This is an exciting development for our state's applicators and producers, as OSCR will help bring these parties together to more effectively communicate about their needs" said Ohio Department of Agriculture Director David Daniels. "Those working in agriculture are always on the cutting edge of innovative ways to implement new technology into their everyday practices and we feel OSCR is another great tool to be used by Ohio businesses."

To be eligible to create an account, users must meet a minimum acreage requirement.

- See more at: [http://www.gongwer-oh.com/programming/news.cfm?article\\_id=830440208#sthash.DZcNLLj4.dpuf](http://www.gongwer-oh.com/programming/news.cfm?article_id=830440208#sthash.DZcNLLj4.dpuf)

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### **Ohio Plans For Spotted Wing Drosophila Monitoring And Workshop -** Celeste Welty, Extension Vegetable Entomologist & Jim Jasinski, Extension IPM Program

Growers of berry crops in Ohio should be prepared to manage a new invasive pest, the spotted wing Drosophila, if it finds its way to their farms this year. This pest was found at many farms in Ohio from July through September 2013, mostly in blackberries, raspberries, and blueberries, but also in peaches and grapes. It was found in at least 37 counties in Ohio. The adult is a tiny fly that lays its eggs in maturing berries before they are harvested. The eggs hatch into tiny larvae that ruin the fruit within a few days. Infestations can escalate to high levels if not controlled. Control at this point is by insecticides with short pre-harvest restrictions such as Delegate, Mustang Max, Malathion, Entrust, and Exirel. Pictures of the pest and its damage, and a complete list of insecticides allowed for each crop are posted on a 2-page information sheet that is posted on-line:

[http://bugs.osu.edu/welty/pdf/SWD\\_Ohio\\_handoutV9.pdf](http://bugs.osu.edu/welty/pdf/SWD_Ohio_handoutV9.pdf)

A monitoring program for spotted wing Drosophila is planned for Ohio in 2014, with funding from the Ohio Small Fruit and Vegetable Research and Development Program and the Ohio IPM Program. The spotted wing Drosophila in its adult stage is monitored by jar traps baited with apple cider vinegar or a yeast and sugar solution. The main objective of the trapping program is first detection of this new pest at representative farms. Secondary objectives are to follow its seasonal development, and to monitor presence of

larvae in fruit using salt bag tests once the pest is known to be present on a farm.

In preparation for the monitoring program, a workshop on spotted wing *Drosophila* identification, monitoring, and management is being held on Wednesday, 30 April, from 9 A.M. until 12 noon, in Columbus. Our target audience is anyone who will be monitoring this pest in 2014. We welcome crop consultants, crop scouts, Extension educators, fruit growers, ag-chem company representatives, and other interested people. There is no fee to attend but the workshop is limited to only 30 participants. Register for the meeting by Monday, 31 March, using this link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/OHswd2014>; or for anyone without internet access, register by a phone call to Celeste Welty at 614-292-2803.

The workshop will include: an overview of the pest's biology and management, its distribution within Ohio, identification of both male and female spotted wing *Drosophila* using microscopes, identification of similar flies found in traps, practice in sorting target from non-target flies, details about trap deployment and maintenance, details about trap reporting via the 'MyTraps' website, and take-home kits with trapping supplies and reference specimens. The workshop will be held in room 115 of Howlett Hall, 2001 Fyffe Court, Columbus, Ohio 43210 on the OSU campus at Columbus. This is building #295 on the OSU campus map, which can be found using this link: <http://www.osu.edu/map/building.php?building=295>.

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### **A cold winter means fewer problems expected from corn flea beetle and Stewart's Wilt on sweet corn – Celeste Welty, Extension Vegetable Entomologist**

One insect pest that is known to be adversely affected by winter temperature is the corn flea beetle. Stewart's wilt is a bacterial disease that causes reduced yields, and when severe it can stunt or kill an entire planting of sweet corn. The disease is transmitted by the corn flea beetle. A traditional rule for predicting severity of Stewart's wilt is to calculate a 'corn flea beetle index' by adding the average temperatures (in degrees Fahrenheit) for December, January, and February. If the index is below 90, then wilt should be negligible. If the index is 90 to 95, then wilt should be light to moderate. If the index is 95 to 100, then wilt should be moderate to severe. If the index is over 100, then

wilt should be severe. The rule does not make any adjustment for presence or absence of snow cover; the rule works reasonably well in most years regardless of snow cover.

The current winter is one of the coldest we have experienced in a long time. The flea beetle index for the current winter shows that Stewart's wilt should be negligible this growing season at Hoytville (index value 63), Fremont (65), Kingsville (67), Celeryville (68), Wooster (74), South Charleston (75), Columbus (79), Caldwell (83), and Piketon (86). The disease could be present but light at Jackson, which has an index value of 90. Note that 2014 is the first year in 27 years that any index value lower than 68 has been found.

This year's predictions based on the flea beetle index values are similar to those in 1994 and 2010. This year's values along with values for representative Ohio locations for recent years, are posted on the internet at:

<http://bugs.osu.edu/welty/pdf/CornFleaBeetleMultiYears.pdf>

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