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Pest Alert

On July 9, 2012, we confirmed the presence of the invasive pest species called the **Spotted Wing Drosophila**, *Drosophila suzukii*, in White Co. Arkansas. The female fly cuts into the skin of ripening fruit to lay eggs that hatch into larvae. The larvae will feed on several ripening fruits, especially brambles and tomatoes. For a list of crops at risk, click [here](#).

This is the first capture and positive identification of both adult male and female Spotted Wing Drosophila in Arkansas. These flies were captured in apple cider vinegar baited traps being monitored in wild and commercial blackberry plantings in White County. We are monitoring for but have not captured this pest in traps in six other Arkansas counties: Crawford, Faulkner, Franklin, Hempstead, Johnson, and Washington. However, it is likely that there are active populations elsewhere in Arkansas. Most states east of Arkansas have already reported this pest including recent first reports in Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island in 2012.

Berry growers should be very vigilant now and set out traps and sample fruit for larvae if they haven't already to confirm whether or not this pest is active on their farms. To see how to make traps, click [video](#). To see how to monitor for Spotted Wing Drosophila, click [video](#). More detailed information on how to trap, identify this particular fruit fly pest, and suggested management strategies can also be found in the 2012 Arkansas fact sheet titled, *Spotted Wing Drosophila: Potential Pest of Arkansas Fruit* – click [here](#).



FIGURE 1. FEMALE SWD with serrated ovipositor.
Photo: BugGuide.net



FIGURE 2. MALE SWD with black spot on wings and large red eyes.
Photo: Davis et al. (2010)

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