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July 2015



What is the Spotted Wing Drosophila?

Have you noticed maggots infesting your fruit this season? If so, you might be dealing with a Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD) infestation. Originally introduced to California in 2008, the SWD has since spread to every corner of the state. SWD generally target smaller fruits like strawberries, cherries, and raspberries; though, plums and mangoes are also targeted on occasion. Fortunately there are a couple ways to lower your chances of facing a SWD infestation. First, remove fallen or damaged fruit to reduce the number of flies attracted to the area.



Growing Tomatoes? Look out for blight

Anyone growing tomatoes in Humboldt County is already familiar with adversity; there simply isn't enough heat along the coast. Weather alone isn't the only threat to healthy tomato plants, however. A pair of fungal diseases known as Early and Late Blight are commonly known to kill or cripple healthy tomato plants. A surefire way to identify this blight is by checking the stems, which will often become blackened once the disease has taken hold. Unfortunately, there is no true resistance to these diseases, but copper fungicides have shown favorable results when applied every 7 to

Second, deploy fine netting over plants to keep flies off the fruit. Some degree of fruit damage is inevitable, but with enough effort one can at least mitigate much of the damage and enjoy a more bountiful harvest! If you are interested in learning more about this pest, feel free to peruse this [web page](#) for tips on their biology and how to control them.

10 days during early stages of infestation. If your area is historically prone to suffering from Early or Late Blight, preventative sprays may also be required. If you are interested in learning more about tomatoes and their diseases, visit [TomatoDirt](#) for more information.



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We have excellent resources on many subjects, including growing vegetables and fruit trees, how to address pests of the home and garden, range and forest management and curriculum for 4-H projects.

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