

October 11, 2011

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**Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD)** On Friday Sept. 23, we constructed baited traps for spotted wing drosophila and placed them on our research farm in areas with grapes, blackberries, and peaches. On Monday morning Sept. 26, samples from the traps in the blackberries and grapes contained fruit flies that were identified by Deborah Blue as Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD), *Drosophila suzukii*, the first find in our state. The SWD is a temperate-zone fruit fly; native to Southeast Asia that prefers temperatures of 67-85° F. Adults are small (2-3 mm) flies with red eyes and a pale brown thorax with black stripes on the abdomen. The most distinctive trait of the adult male is

a black spot towards the tip of each wing (see photo); the female does not have any wing spots. Larvae are tiny (up to 3.5 mm), white, cylindrical maggots that are found feeding inside fruit. This pest was first identified in the western U.S. in 2008. In 2009 it was found in California, Florida, Oregon, Utah and Washington. In the last year or so it has been found in the Midwest and Pennsylvania. It was reported in Central Maryland in August, 2011. Scientists at the USDA Appalachian Fruit Research reported on 9/26/2011 that they also had found the insect.

Dr. Jerry Brust (University of Maryland) prepared, and has graciously allowed us to use, this excellent Fact Sheet on SWD:

[http://www.caf.wvu.edu/kearneysville/SWD/Spotted\\_Wing\\_Drosophila-Jerry\\_Brust.pdf](http://www.caf.wvu.edu/kearneysville/SWD/Spotted_Wing_Drosophila-Jerry_Brust.pdf)

**eXtension Apple Web Site Press Release:** eXtension.org announces today (9/26/2011) the release of its apples resource area. Growers and homeowners can find research-based information on growing apples.

Late summer and fall is apple harvest time. With this enjoyment of eating apples comes a new online resource about growing apples. eXtension.org, the online component of national Cooperative Extension, just added a new resource area about apple production, cultivars and rootstocks for commercial apple producers, home gardeners, nursery professionals and anyone interested in growing and eating apples.

Researchers and Extension educators from several universities have assembled research-based apple production information on [www.extension.org/apples](http://www.extension.org/apples). The information will help growers select rootstocks and cultivars, locate tree nurseries, plan and manage a planting, identify and manage diseases and pests and more. Home growers and consumers will find the information easily-accessible and interesting, helping them successfully grow apples and enjoy the right fruit at the right time.

eXtension.org/apples includes: Articles and photos of many facets of apple production; Rootstock database with traits, descriptions and photos of many widely-available rootstocks and promising rootstocks in research trials; Answers to frequently-asked questions; Links to regional resources; Sources for purchasing trees; Videos produced by apple researchers and educators; Access to experts via Ask an Expert and on Facebook, <http://www.facebook.com/eApples>

More to come: The university researchers and Extension educators are continuing to develop additional resources including a detailed cultivar database, interactive features, self-guided courses and more content for consumers. This core team was funded by a grant from USDA Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI) to develop an eXtension Apples community of practice to help increase the productivity, profitability and sustainability of this specialty crop.

Industry experts interested in contributing to the apple information on eXtension should sign up for an eXtension ID at <https://www.extension.org/people/login>.

About eXtension: eXtension, <http://www.extension.org>, is a network of researchers and educators from Cooperative Extension Services across the United States, government agencies and industry. eXtension is an educational resource that takes university-based research and turns it into practical information people can use to solve today's problems and develop skills to build a better future. Experts provide unbiased information in more than 40 resource areas including agriculture and animals, community and economics, energy and environment, home and family, and yard and garden.

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Thanks for reading.

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Individuals requesting an accommodation to a meeting because of a disability should contact one of the Extension Specialists at the WVU Kearneysville Tree Fruit Research and Education Center at (304) 876-6353 at least five days prior to the event.