**PROTECT YOUR BERRIES AND BOTTOM LINE FROM SWD.**

Spotted wing drosophila (SWD) was first found in berries along the California coast in 2008. Within a year, the pest had spread from California all the way to Canada and the eastern U.S., notes Dr. Peter Shearer, strawberry entomologist with the Cal Poly Strawberry Center. Dr. Shearer is an established authority on SWD in tree fruit crops who joined the Cal Poly Strawberry Center to lead its strawberry entomology program. The Cal Poly Strawberry Center is the only organization in the U.S. solely dedicated to strawberry research and education.

*Drosophila suzukii*, commonly called the spotted wing drosophila, is a fruit fly originally from Southeast Asia that causes significant damage to fruit crops. Unlike other vinegar flies that occur in California, spotted wing drosophila attack healthy ripening fruit as well as damaged or rotting fruit. It can be found infesting ripening cherry, raspberry, blackberry, blueberry and strawberry fruits in many California counties.

“The spotted wing drosophila lays eggs directly in the fruit and, when the larvae hatch, the fruit collapses and decays as it is being eaten from the inside out,” explains Dr. Shearer.

SWD reduces marketable fruit yields and is a significant pest for strawberry growers in the Watsonville-Salinas growing district where high tunnel production of raspberries and blackberries attract drosophila. “Raspberries are like candy to spotted wing drosophila, attracting high numbers and exploding populations, which find their way to commercial strawberry fields,” says Dr. Shearer.

SWD is less of a problem in fresh strawberries, due to frequent picking, but it can become severe when growers transition from fresh to processing strawberries during the season. “The longer picking interval for processing strawberries provides drosophila ample opportunity to infect the ripening fruit,” explains Dr. Shearer.

**Management strategies**

Managing SWD requires insecticide sprays, removal of overripe fruit from fields, shorter harvest intervals and cold storage of picked fruit, according to Dr. Shearer. Good sanitation is critical since infested fruit that remains in the field serves as a food source and allows eggs and larvae to fully develop and serves as a source of more flies.

“Exirel® insect control powered by Cyazypyr® active is an effective material against spotted wing drosophila as well as Lepidoptera and thrips,” says Dr. Shearer. “It has a different mode of action than pyrethroids or spinosyns providing growers another chemical class to help minimize resistance development.” Exirel insect control has a one-day preharvest interval.

Always read and follow all label directions, precautions and restrictions for use. Some products may not be registered for sale or use in all states. The EPA registered label for Exirel insect control contains the following statements: This product is highly toxic to bees exposed to direct treatment on blooming crops or weeds. Do not apply this product or allow it to drift to blooming crops or weeds if bees are foraging (actively visiting) the treatment area. FMC, the FMC logo, Cyazypyr and Exirel are trademarks of FMC are trademarks of FMC Corporation or an affiliate. ©2019 FMC Corporation. All rights reserved. 19-FMC-1125 08/19