Welcome to
Florida Small Farms and Alternative Enterprises Conference
Monitoring insects for solid pest management decisions
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For more information on Small Farms, visit our website at: http://smallfarms.ifas.ufl.edu/ or contact your local County Extension Agent.

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Adopt this IPM Practice:
Monitoring insects for solid pest management decisions

Identifying the pest is the first step in a solid Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program. The use of traps and monitoring devices can improve detection and identification of many arthropod pests. Check out these options.

Detecting Adult Spotted Wing Drosophila in Blueberries

To make this trap:
Collect 32 oz deli or takeout containers with lids. Make 8-10 holes around the perimeter of the top of the container. Try creating holes by using a hot nail or screw to soften/slightly melt the plastic. Cut a section of rolled twist tie attached through the holes to create a hanger. Fill the container with 1.5 to 2 inches of apple cider vinegar. Adding a couple drops of odorless dish soap can help prevent flies from being able to climb out of the vinegar by breaking the surface tension. A mixture of 0.25 oz yeast, 4 tsp sugar and about 10.25 oz of water may be more effective than vinegar in warmer temperatures.

Count pests, keep records and use thresholds for decisions

Use references to determine which pests to expect

Detect larvae by selecting at least 30 undamaged fruit and placing them in a baggie. Crush the berries and add a salt solution made from 4 cups of water and ¼ cup salt. Wait 10-15 minutes for the fruit to sink to the bottom and look for any larvae that float to the top. Perform weekly.

Use references to determine which pests to expect

UF: Florida Tomato Scouting Guide

Note Units

Recommended References

 UF: Florida Tomato Scouting Guide

UF. Florida Tomato Scouting Guide 

Insect Attractants and Traps, R. Weinzierl, T. Henn, P. G. Koehler and C. L. Tucker. UF Entomology ENY 277
http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/IN/IN08000.pdf

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To Check Weekly

The dark wing tips distinguish this male from other vinegar flies.

Sticky traps are an effective monitoring device for many insects.
Yellow attracts aphids & whitefly
Blue attracts thrips
Will catch flying insects
Will also catch debris & non pests
Traps using attractants like pheromones are available for some insects
Other traps may use attractants such as fermented fruit

Refer to the UF/IFAS Extension, Polk County website for more information.

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