Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD) 2016 Report for New York State
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All SWD trapping locations had caught SWD by August 13th. First trap catch occurred over a nine- to ten-week-long period, from June 8 to August 13. SWD was caught earlier this year than in prior years, but the hot and extremely dry weather across New York State appears to have benefited early- and mid-season berry crops, which suffered lower infestation rates in July than might have been expected from the early arrival of SWD. However, later in the summer, fall raspberries and late-maturing fruit were hard hit and growers had a difficult time maintaining insecticide coverage and control.

Twenty-five scientists monitored traps in 25 Counties this year. A total of 117 Scentry traps were deployed in the network, primarily in raspberry (summer and fall) and blueberry. The first trap network site to report SWD trap catch was in Suffolk County, Long Island. At about the same time, SWD was caught at a research location in the Finger Lakes region. Fifty-three blogs were posted on the SWD blog, blogs.cornell.edu/swd1/, this year to alert subscribers about SWD trap catch. SWD resources are found on Cornell Fruit Resources, www.fruit.cornell.edu/spottedwing/

Although SWD might show up around the same time each year in a particular location, this doesn’t often hold true. For instance, the location in 2015 at which my program caught SWD first was among the last of our monitoring locations to catch SWD this year.

The long length of time, 66 days, over which first trap catch reports came in from across NY in 2016 and in prior years (56 days in 2015, 56 days in 2014, 76 days in 2013) provides evidence that SWD arrival across NY isn’t synchronous. For this reason, in addition to trap catch reports, growers must consider crop maturity and crop susceptibility to infestation when formulating management decisions.