New Fruit Pest Found in North Dakota

The spotted-wing drosophila (SWD), a pest that feeds on fresh fruit, has been found in North Dakota for the first time.

The North Dakota State University Plant Diagnostic Laboratory in Fargo first found larvae and one adult female in a sample of cherries submitted by the NDSU Carrington Research Extension Center in Foster County. The insect has since been confirmed in 10 counties including Burleigh, Cass, Cavalier, Foster, Grand Forks, Logan, Mercer, Morton, Pembina, and Stark, with suspects in other counties. Infected fruit samples included cherries, raspberries and blackberries.

Sometimes confused with the common fruit fly which prefers rotting fruit, the spotted-wing drosophila prefers fresh fruits. It can cause serious damage to small berries (raspberries, strawberries, blueberries, and blackberries), plums, grapes, hardy kiwis and cherries.

The spotted-wing drosophila is about 3 millimeters long, yellowish brown in color with prominent red eyes. Males have dark spots on their wing tips. Native to Asia, it was first found in the U.S. in 2008 in California, and has since spread to across the country. It was first detected in Minnesota last summer and was likely in North Dakota last year as well.

It does not fly long distances and likely was brought into the state in a shipment of fruit from another infested area. Growers should set out fruit fly traps to monitor for them, and should follow recommended insecticide spraying if they are found. Sanitation is critical. Unharvested fruit should be destroyed by burning or deep burial. Trapping instructions will be included in the Spring Nursery Newsletter.

Emerald Ash Borer Update

The North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA) hung 358 purple traps for emerald ash borer throughout the state in 2013. No specimens were found. Trapping will continue in 2014, although the number of traps to be hung is undetermined.

Also in 2013, four states were added to the list of states with confirmed EAB, bringing the total to 21. The most significant find was in Boulder, CO, the farthest point west the insect has been discovered. EAB was also found in Superior, WI, across the river from Duluth, MN. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture is surveying the area for potential finds.
Japanese Beetle....AGAIN!

Japanese beetles were once again shipped into North Dakota in 2013. A hundred Japanese beetle traps were placed in 32 nurseries around June 1. Priority was given to nurseries that were positive in 2012, shipping nurseries and nurseries in close proximity to 2012 positive nurseries. Approximately 80 traps were given out at the local nursery convention and hung by volunteers.

The first beetles were reported June 23, at multiple locations – one nursery had more than 50 beetles in its traps. Within a week of the discovery, NDDA requested that the nursery shipping stock from a Japanese beetle infested area turn off the compressors in their trucks for a short time to allow the more effective fumigation. Advance notifications of shipments enabled NDDA to randomly observe trucks being unloaded. Beetles were observed on multiple occasions. The beetles appeared dead at first, but as they warmed up they became active. Hundreds of beetles were collected at North Dakota nurseries this year. The beetle is not considered to be established in North Dakota.

Traps were collected approximately Oct.1. All trapped nurseries receiving stock from the infested nursery during the flight period were positive for Japanese beetle. All traps at nurseries that had not received stock from infested nurseries were negative. NDDA is currently evaluating options. Any input from nursery owners and managers would be greatly appreciated. We do not want this pest to get established in North Dakota!

Nonhardy Survey:

NDDA wants nursery owner and operator input on the Nonhardy Plants List. Please complete the survey on pages 3 and 4 and mail with your nursery license application to the Bismarck office. The survey can also be completed online by accessing www.surveymonkey.com/s/H2PV6PC.

Plan to Attend!

The 2014 North Dakota Nursery and Greenhouse Association conference will be Jan. 26-28, at the Ramada Plaza Suites in Fargo. Held in conjunction with the North Dakota Urban and Community Forestry Association convention, the NDNGA convention is an opportunity to network with fellow nursery owners and to make contact with others in the nursery trade. For more information, contact Mary at 701-866-7673 or holmgh@polarcomm.com.

Did you know? North Dakota nursery licenses are due December 31st. Anyone selling nursery stock must hold a license in ND, including landscapers, chain stores, garden centers, growers and other dealers.
North Dakota NonHardy Nursery Survey

The North Dakota Department of Agriculture enforces the nonhardy portion of the North Dakota nursery law (NDCC 4-21.1-11). We like to receive input from our local nursery growers and dealers who have hands-on experience with the nursery stock. Please complete the best you are able. Any questions please contact Charles Elhard at 701-239-7295 or celhard@nd.gov.

1. Should the North Dakota Department of Agriculture continue to implement and maintain a nonhardy list and inspection program?

☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ I don’t know

Why or Why not? Additional Comments:

2. The following woody plants are currently the most commonly cited nonhardy violations. Please mark the ones that you feel should REMAIN on the nonhardy list. If there are any you feel should be removed from the list, please indicate why in the comment box below.

☐ Japanese Maple (Acer palmatum)
☐ Redbud (Cercis spp.)
☐ Flowering Dogwood (Cornus florida)
☐ Flowering Quince (Chaenomeles spp.)
☐ Contorted Filbert (Harry Lauder's Walking Stick, Corylus avellana 'Contorta')
☐ Rose of Sharon (Hibiscus syriacus)
☐ Climbing Hydrangea (Hydrangea anomala)
☐ Holly (Ilex spp. not including Ilex verticillata)
☐ Privet (Ligustrum spp.)

Comments:
3. Continued from Question 2. The following woody plants are currently the most commonly cited non-hardy violations. Please mark the ones that you feel should REMAIN on the nonhardy list. If there are any you feel should be removed from the list, please indicate why in the comment box below.

- Magnolia (Magnolia spp. not including Ruth, Merrill, Ann, Royal Star, Butterflies, Jane and Spring Welcome)
- Japanese Pieris (Pieris japonica)
- Dwarf Flowering Almond (Prunus gladulosa)
- Japanese Viburnum (Viburnum plicatum)
- Fraser Fir (Abies fraseri)
- Dwarf Alberta Spruce (Picea glauca 'Conica')
- Emerald Arborvitae (Thuja occidentalis 'Smargd')
- Japanese Flowering Cherry (Prunus hybrids)
- Sweet Cherry (Prunus avium)
- Peaches and Nectarines (Prunus persica)
- Callery Pear (Pyrus calleryana)
- Pear Cultivars: Ayers, Bartlett, D'Anjou, Moonglow, Kieffer, Lincoln
- Apple Cultivars: Braeburn, Fuji, Gala, Golden Delicious, Red Delicious, Mutsu, Winesap, Yellow Delicious

Indicate other species that you believe should be added to or removed from the list. The full list is available at [www.nd.gov/ndda]:

Comments about the nursery program are always appreciated. Thank you for your participation. Please mail this survey with your nursery license application to the Bismarck office.

Thank you for your participation. Please mail this survey with your nursery license application:

North Dakota Department of Agriculture
Attn: Nursery Program
600 East Boulevard Avenue Dept 602
Bismarck, ND 58505