# Surveys for spotted wing drosophila, *Drosophila suzukii*, in strawberries and other small fruits in Alachua Co. Florida

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## Spotted wing drosophila

- Drosophila suzukii
- Lay eggs in ripening and ripe fruit

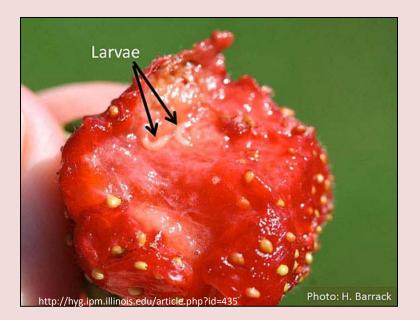






## Host plants

- Blueberries
- Blackberries
- Raspberries
- Strawberries



- Cherries
- Grapes
- Peaches
- Many other thinskinned fruits



# In Florida

- Major problem in blueberries and blackberries
- Problem in strawberries
  - Long fruiting season (Dec. early Apr.) and limited insecticide applications
- Summer hosts?
  - Muscadine grapes

# Muscadine grapes



- Native to SE USA
- Harvest July Sept. depending on variety
- Split easily when overripe

- SWD will lay eggs and develop in ripe, unwounded fruit in no choice tests (minimal)
- Oviposition and development in wounded grapes is comparable to ripe blueberry fruit

Grant and Sial 2016

# Objectives

- 1) to survey the population of SWD on organic and conventional strawberry farms
- 2) to survey for SWD in potential host plants that fruit during the summer months in Alachua Co., Florida
  - Muscadine grapes
  - Persimmon

Strawberry Surveys

#### **OBJECTIVE 1**

#### Methods: strawberries organic

 Three traps per farm checked weekly throughout the season

– Yeast + sugar + water bait with dish soap

- Traps were placed in a diagonal line with 1 trap in the center of the plot and the other two near opposite corners of the plot
- Numbers of SWD males and females were counted and recorded

# SWD trap



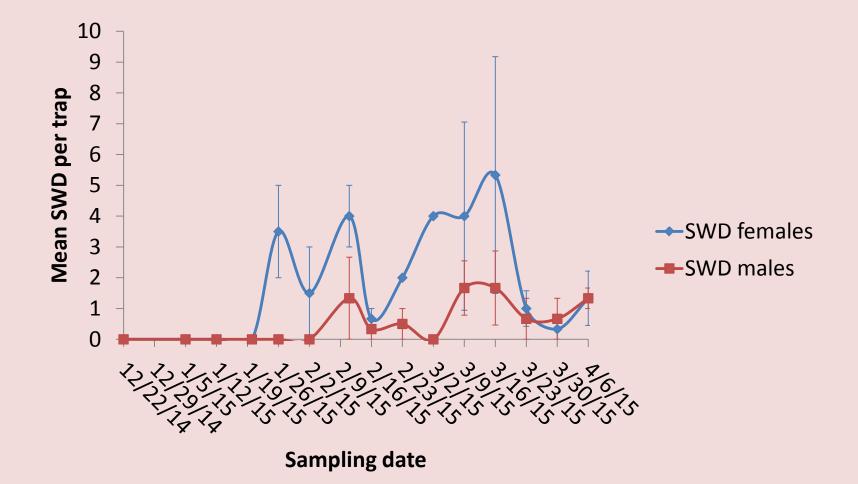
#### Methods: strawberries conventional

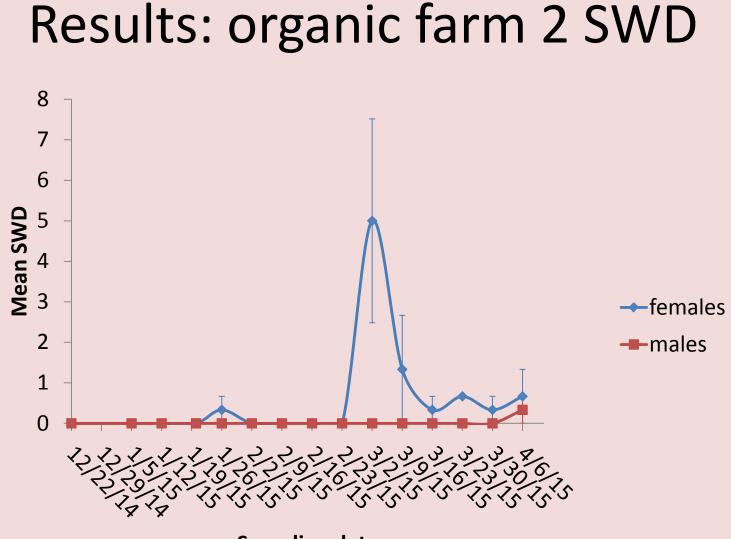
 Two traps per farm checked weekly during March 2015

– Yeast + sugar + water bait with dish soap

- Traps were placed at two different locations on the farm at least 30 m apart
- Numbers of SWD males and females were counted and recorded

#### Results: organic farm 1 SWD





Sampling date

# Results: conventional farms

#### Farm 3

	SWD females	SWD males
2-Mar	$3.5 \pm 0.5$	0.5 ± 0.5
9-Mar	0	0
31-Mar	3.5 ± 0.5	1 ± 0

Farm 4		
	SWD females	SWD males
2-Mar	1 ± 1	0
31-Mar	0.5 ± 0.5	0

#### Conclusions

- There is an established SWD population on organic farm 1 and conventional farm 3
- The SWD population on organic farm 2 and conventional farm 4 appears to be more transitory
- Peak SWD populations occurred in March

Grapes and persimmons

#### **OBJECTIVE 2**

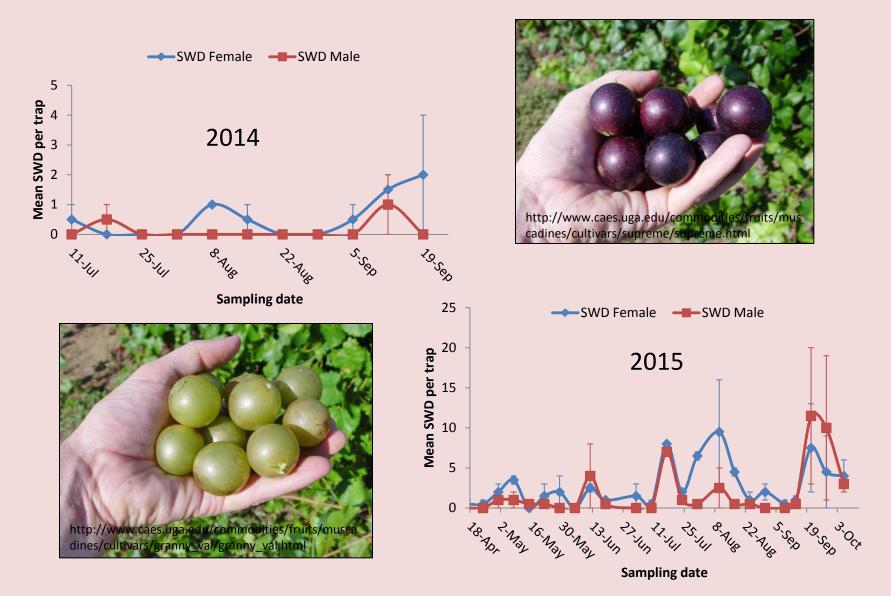
#### Methods: grapes and persimmons

- 0.6 ha U-pick muscadine grape vineyard with ~ 10 persimmon trees
- Two traps in grapes and one in persimmons checked weekly from 11 July – 19 Sept. 2014 and 17 Apr – 6 Oct. 2015

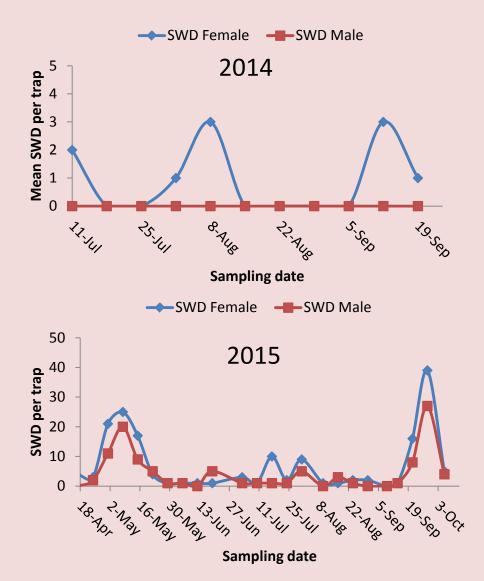
- Yeast + sugar + water bait with dish soap

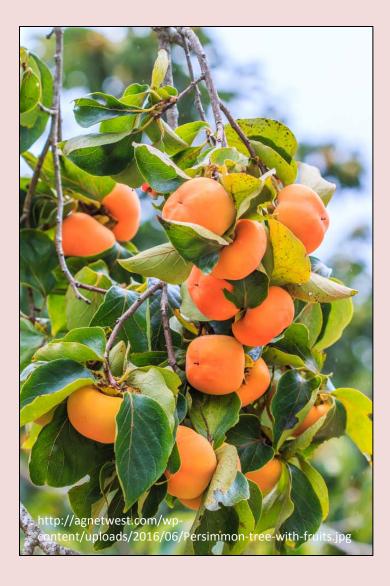
 Numbers of SWD males and females were counted and recorded

#### **Results:** grapes



#### **Results: persimmons**



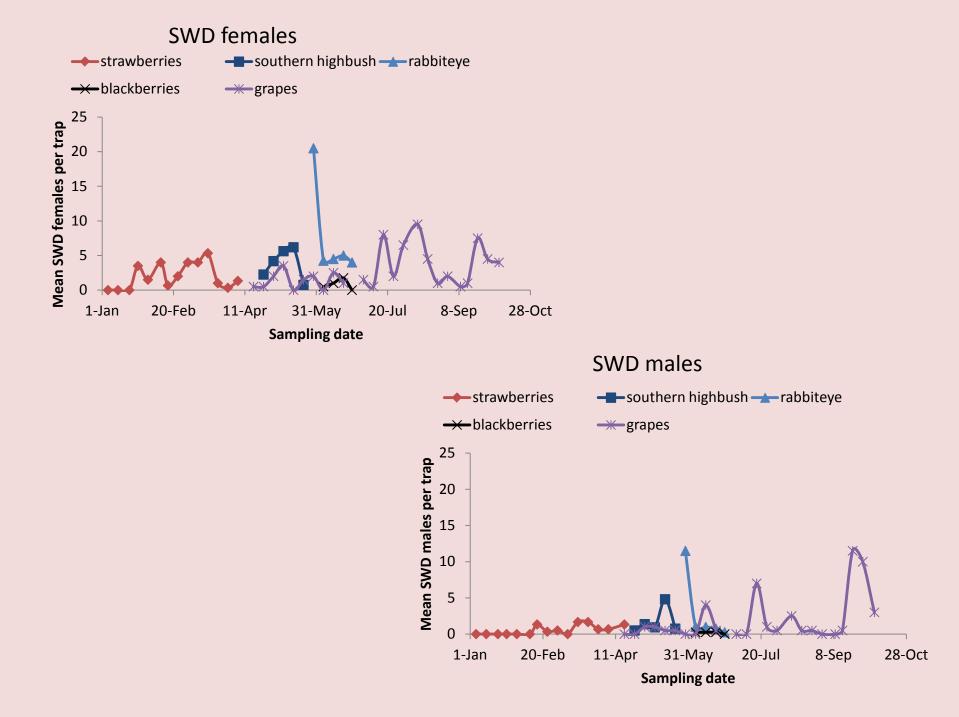


#### Conclusions

 Muscadine grapes appear to serve as a summer host for SWD in Florida

Likely using overripe and injured fruit

 Overripe and/or rotting persimmons may also serve as a summer host



# Summary

- SWD populations peaked in March in strawberries in Alachua Co. Florida in 2015
- SWD may utilize grapes and persimmons as summer hosts
  - Damaged or rotting fruit

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