Spotted Wing Drosophila is a recently established pest of soft fruit throughout Washington State. Female adults lay eggs in ripening fruit, causing contamination and accelerated decay.

Monitoring programs can help growers identify early infestations. Female SWD are most often seen early in the season and are most difficult to identify. Early season diagnosis of this pest offers a greater chance for successful management. Current trapping recommendations provide an easy method for growers to monitor their fields but proper identification is key to avoiding costly mistakes.

A workshop for commercial growers who are actively scouting for SWD as well as WSU extension personnel will be held on May 23, 2012 from 1-3pm at the WSU Mt. Vernon Northwest Washington Research and Extension Center.

In this workshop, Dr. Beverly Gerdeman, will teach techniques in identifying SWD using a hand lens and microscope and how to avoid misidentification of look-alike flies. Participants will have the opportunity to dissect infested fruit, observe all the life stages of SWD and practice a salt-disclosing technique to subsample fruit.

When: Wednesday, May 23, 2012, 1-3pm  
Where: WSU Mt. Vernon Northwest Washington Research and Extension Center  
16650 State Route 536, Mount Vernon, WA  
Cost: Free  
Register: RSVP to Colleen Burrows · cburrows@wsu.edu · (360) 676-6736 ext 22

Dr. Beverly Gerdeman received her Ph.D. in Entomology from The Ohio State University. Soon after she began working in small fruit entomology at Washington State University. Her research has broadened to include arthropod pests of vegetables, bamboo and cut flowers. She has worked internationally with farmers from the Philippines, Indonesia, Senegal, and Mali to reduce pesticide usage and to promote sustainable production methods. Her most recent research has been focused on control of spotted wing drosophila and host plant/insect phenology.