Producers of small fruits and other crops in Washington State are rightly concerned about news that a new type of “vinegar fly” (Drosophila) may be moving into our region. The pest, known as spotted wing drosophila, is potentially onerous because of its ability to deposit eggs in and feed on ripening fruit. Other Drosophila are less worrisome because they feed on overripe/rotten fruit, sparing damage to ripening crops.

Many Drosophila species are present in eastern Washington, but as of May 24, 2010 there have been **NO CONFIRMED DETECTIONS OF SPOTTED WING DROSOPHILA IN EASTERN WASHINGTON** in 2010. Use these 3 steps to determine whether a specimen is SWD.

1. **Is it a Drosophila?**
   Many insects (e.g., flies, wasps) have spotted wings. Species within the *Drosophila* genus have two “breaks” along the top (costal) vein of their wings.

2. **Is it a female SWD?**
   The female spotted wing drosophila are more difficult to identify than the males, not having dark spots on their wings. Their most distinguishing characteristic is their ovipositor—it is longer than those of other Drosophila and is deeply serrated. The ovipositor can be more easily viewed by pressing gently on the abdomen of the specimen.

3. **Is it a male SWD?**
   Male spotted wing drosophila are relatively easy to identify. The males have the characteristic dark spot on the tips of their wings. They also have red eyes and two dark bands on their front legs.

For Help Identifying Suspicious Specimens
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