

Canadian Dwarf Sour Cherry Update – 2013



'Carmine Jewel' really showed its potential this year. We had a phenomenal crop that averaged 30 pounds per plant. As you can see, all of the branches were pulled down by the weight of the crop – and remarkably, they sprang right back up into shape after harvest.

On the other hand, 'Crimson Passion' produced almost no fruit despite having an almost identical bloom period and plenty of blossoms.

We have not seen Brix levels get as high as the amounts reported in Saskatchewan. For 'Carmine Jewel', we saw 12.1, 13.4 and 13.2°Brix in 2011-13 at CREC while Canadian reports show it in the 14-17°Brix range. 'Crimson Passion' did best here in 2012 at 15.6°Brix but Canadian reports have it reaching 22° Brix. Even so, 'Crimson Passion' is a very sweet, large and delicious cherry.

In 2013, our little 'Garden of Eden' came to an end here in North Dakota. Spotted winged drosophila (SWD) was identified here at the research center and it did about 50% damage to the cherries.

I saw a small amount of damage from it in 2012 but I did not see the adults nor did I send fruit into our diagnostic laboratory. This year, I was able to capture an adult and I sent affected fruit to the NDSU Plant Diagnostic Laboratory where they grew the maggots into adults. Soon after, other people sent cherry and raspberry samples to the lab and it was noted across the state. This is really disappointing because the only method to save your fruit is to spray the plants with insecticides every week.



To the left, is a picture of the SWD female ovipositor – You can see the serrated ovipositor that allows these flies to lay their egg in healthy, firm fruit.

To the right, are probable SWD flies on melon scraps in a compost pile.



Below, is the damage caused when the eggs are deposited and bacteria and funguses start to spoil the area around the incision.

