

**How to Manage Pests**

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## How to Manage Pests

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## Fig

### Vinegar Flies

**Scientific Name:** *Drosophila*  
 principally *D. melanogaster*  
 (Reviewed 7/06, updated 7/06)

spp.,



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**DESCRIPTION OF THE PEST**

*Drosophila* [adults](#) are small, tan to amber-colored flies with red eyes, about 0.12 inch long. [Larvae](#) are small, white, legless maggots that are up to 0.2 inch long when mature. They differ from driedfruit beetle larvae in that they do not have a sclerotized head capsule.

**DAMAGE**

Damage is similar to the [driedfruit beetle](#) in that presence of vinegar flies in the fruit causes downgrading or rejection of the fruit. Vinegar flies are also responsible for transmitting spoilage organisms to sound fruit. Late ripening varieties are especially susceptible to damage.

**MANAGEMENT**

Vinegar flies breed in any fermenting or decaying fruit. Remove or discard under these hosts to reduce the population. The flies are cool season pests; complete harvest rapidly and early to reduce exposure of fruit to infestation. Chemicals applied for driedfruit beetle control will partially reduce vinegar fly populations.

**PUBLICATION**

*UC IPM Pest Management Guidelines: Fig*  
 UC ANR Publication 3447  
 Insects and Mites

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