

Western cherry fruit fly is a zero-tolerance pest. If detected, a grower's entire crop can be rejected. Maggots, which develop inside the cherries, make the fruit unmarketable. In unsprayed trees, a high percentage of fruit is likely to be attacked.



Larva exiting (photo by E.Beers)



Exit hole (photo by Guitierrez)

What can you do?

Inspect locally grown fruit for signs of infestation.

If you find signs of infestation, double-bag all the fruit in good strong bags and place in garbage container that will go to a landfill.

If you have a large amount of fruit, dispose with a local composting company that will heat the compost and kill the pests.

If you want to use homegrown, damaged fruit, the safest way to protect Washington's fruit industry is to process the fruit at home by cooking, drying, juicing, freezing or making it into other products. Dispose of the bad parts in a landfill or commercial compost.

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How to Recognize Bad Bugs in Fruit

A small spot on a piece of fruit may not look like a serious problem, but it could spread insects that harm commercial orchards and damage the economy.

Washington tree-fruit growers need your help to prevent the spread of bad bugs.



Apples, pears and cherries have serious insect pests. When infected fruit is sold, pests can spread.

Managing pests requires lots of labor **and** often requires several pesticide applications to keep the tree-fruit pest-free year after year.

Pear psylla insects damage the fruit. Their drippy “honeydew” encourages the growth of sooty mold – making the pears unmarketable.



Fruit russet damage (photo by E. Beers)

Homeowners are legally responsible for controlling insect pests and diseases on their property. (See Washington State RCW 15.09.060 Owners Duty to Control Pests and Diseases.)

Codling moth is a common pest of apple and pear. Fruit is inspected in the orchard, at the packing house and upon receipt by the buyer. Growers must show they are following best management practices to control codling moth. If even one live codling moth is found during an inspection, all fruit from that grower lot will be excluded from the export market.

Brown frass, or excrement, can be seen around a hole. A new entry is often surrounded by a red ring.



Photo by E. Beers

Learn more about growing fruit at home from a Horticultural Pest & Disease Board:
<http://www.co.chelan.wa.us/horticultural-pest-and-disease-board>

Apple maggots feed below the skin of the apple and leave dimples as shown below. They can spread easily from fruit to tree. Homegrown fruit must not be transported outside designated quarantine areas to prevent spreading the infestation. Learn where apple maggot quarantine areas are by referencing WSDA’s searchable on-line apple maggot quarantine map.

<http://agr.wa.gov/PlantsInsects/InsectPests/AppleMaggot/Homegrown.aspx>



Photo by J. Brunner



Apple maggot damage