Insecticide Control of *Drosophila suzukii* in Commercial Sweet Cherry Crops under Cladding

**Bethan Shaw**, **Sebastian Hemer**, **Madeleine F. L. Cannon**, **Francesco Rogai** and **Michelle T. Fountain**

1. Pest and Pathology Ecology Department, NIAB EMR, New Road, East Malling, Kent ME19 6BJ, UK
2. Research and Development Department, Berry Garden Growers Ltd., Tatlingbury Oast, Five Oak Green, Tonbridge, Kent TN12 6RG, UK
* Correspondence: michelle.fountain@emr.ac.uk

Received: 31 May 2019; Accepted: 2 July 2019; Published: 4 July 2019

**Abstract:** *Drosophila suzukii* Matsumura is a damaging invasive pest of sweet cherry. Using a series of laboratory leaf contact assays, semi-field, and orchard spray programs we aimed to determine the impact of insecticide programs on *D. suzukii* adult mortality and oviposition in cladding-protected sweet cherry crops. Tests included assessing adult *D. suzukii* mortality after contact with leaves sprayed either one or two weeks previously and emergence of adults from fruits. Spinosad, lambda-cyhalothrin, acetamiprid, lime, pyrethrin, deltamethrin, and cyantraniliprole all reduced fruit damage up to day 7 after application. Of these active ingredients, only spinosad, lambda-cyhalothrin, and cyantraniliprole gave satisfactory control up to 14 days. There was no significant difference in *D. suzukii* mortality when exposed to leaves treated either one or two weeks previously with an application of either spinosad, cyantraniliprole, or lambda-cyhalothrin; however, mortality was significantly higher than *D. suzukii* in contact with untreated leaves. In eight commercial orchards, fortnightly spray applications including spinosad, cyantraniliprole, and lambda-cyhalothrin gave effective control of *D. suzukii* until harvest with very few damaged fruits. These experiments demonstrate that currently approved plant protection products, applied to sweet cherry under protection, give at least two weeks protection from *D. suzukii*.

**Keywords:** exclusion mesh; integrated pest management; insecticide resistance management; *Prunus avium*; spotted wing drosophila

1. **Introduction**

*Drosophila suzukii* Matsumura was introduced into Europe in 2008 from Asia, probably in imported fruits [1], and first identified in the UK in 2012 [2]. It remains the major pest of soft fruits, including raspberries, blackberries, and strawberries [3,4], and is also a major pest of stone fruits including cherry [5].

Growers employ crop protection practices to reduce the pressure of *D. suzukii* in cropping areas. Insect exclusion mesh is deployed to prevent the incursion of adult flies from the surrounding habitat into the crop [6,7] and, although this has a high initial cost, has been found to be highly effective [8]. The implementation of strict crop hygiene measures including regular fruit picking and the removal of damaged and unmarketable fruit from the cropping area can also significantly reduce fruit damage [9]. Waste fruit removed from the crop needs to be treated to kill any remaining eggs and larvae. Afterwards, the treated waste must be disposed of to prevent re-inoculation of healthy fruits [10]. All of these measures contribute towards control, but fruit growers still apply insecticides because the risk of oviposition into fruits is perceived as too high.
Before the arrival of D. suzukii, cherry crops (Prunus avium L.) received very few insecticide sprays. An aphicide was normally applied pre-flower to reduce fundatrix of cherry blackfly, Myzus cerasi (Fabricius) [11,12]. However, since the arrival of D. suzukii, and in order to protect cherries from egg laying it has been necessary to protect fruits, from the white color stage, with insecticides. Before the white stage, fruits are generally not penetrable by the female D. suzukii oviscapt and hence insecticides to protect the fruits are not deemed necessary [13].

There is a growing trend in Europe, and especially in the UK, to grow cherries under protective cladding. Indeed, over 90% of newly planted cherry orchards in the UK utilize this modern growing system [14]. This ensures high quality fruit by preventing rain damage and subsequent splitting [15–17]. This method of cultivation offers two opportunities to help protect cherry fruit from D. suzukii. Firstly, there is a barrier to the top of the crop from D. suzukii from the plastic cladding potentially reducing immigration from above the canopy. Further, the edges of the crop can be protected by employing insect exclusion mesh [18]. Secondly, the cladding material prevents rain wash-off of applied insecticides, potentially increasing the longevity of the effectiveness of plant protection products compared to open crops [19].

Several classes of insecticide provide acceptable control of D. suzukii in laboratory and field trials. These include organophosphates, spinosyns, and pyrethroids [20–24]. Additional, less effective products providing shorter periods of protection have also been investigated. These latter products can be integrated into a spray program to help manage insecticide resistance [25] and may be better suited to crops under cladding due to the preservation of products. As many growers have a combination of early-, mid-, and/or late-ripening cherry varieties, the cropping season in the UK can be up to 10 weeks. These factors, in addition to an additional 4 weeks of vulnerable ripening stages [26], requires long-term protection from D. suzukii. With a limitation on the maximum number of insecticide applications, growers must rely on a program that includes the rotation of short- and long-term persistence products to gain adequate protection against D. suzukii.

The aim of these studies was to determine the efficacy of plant protection product programs and their impact on D. suzukii adult mortality and fruit damage in sweet cherry. In a series of semi-field and orchard trials we firstly screened products for longevity and then assessed fortnightly programs of sprays and the resultant fruit damage in protected cherry crops.

2. Materials and Methods

In 2015, the first experiment screened a range of insecticides for the length of time they protected fruit from D. suzukii damage. In 2017, a small field trial examined the effects of weekly vs. fortnightly sprays on adult D. suzukii survival in contact with sprayed foliage. In the final year, trials on growers’ commercial crops measured the impacts of a fortnightly spray program on fruit damage and survival of adult D. suzukii that came into contact with foliage.

2.1. Efficacy and Longevity of Plant Protection Products

In 2015, an experimental cherry orchard at NIAB EMR (East Malling, Kent, UK) (cvs. Penny with Sweetheart pollinator trees, RF 181/182), planted in 2008 was used. The trial took place in two rows of the orchard. The planting distance was 2 m between the trees and 4 m between the rows, which were orientated north–south. The trees were 3.5 m tall and had a 2 m wide canopy, pruned to a center leader, with no canopy <0.5 m from the ground. The crop was protected under a metal tunnel structure (‘Greenhouse’ posts and hoop system from Haygrove Ltd., Ledbury, UK) which was clad in standard commercial plastic cladding (Visqueen Luminance THB cladding also from Haygrove Ltd.), without perimeter insect exclusion mesh.

The plant protection products were applied at approved rates at the time, as shown in Table 1. The trial was a randomized block design with 6 replicates of 8 treatments, including an unsprayed control. The plots in each block were arranged end-to-end in a row, and each plot was three trees—one sprayed tree with an unsprayed guard tree either side and there was a guard row between the two
treatment rows. Sprays were applied on 9 July 2015 as a single application with a motorized knapsack sprayer (Birchmeier B245 air-assisted Knapsack mist blower, Stetten, Switzerland) set to a fine spray quality (volume of 1000 L ha\(^{-1}\)), as shown in Table 1. Dose was calculated based on tree planting density (1250 trees ha\(^{-1}\)); at 1000 L ha\(^{-1}\) this was 800 mL of spray per tree.

| Active Ingredient (Ai) | Product Name  | Ai L\(^{-1}\) | Product Rate ha\(^{-1}\) (Spray Volume = 1000 L ha\(^{-1}\)) |
|------------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Acetamiprid            | Gazelle       | 20% w/w       | 375 g                                                    |
| Deltamethrin           | Decis         | 25 g          | 200 mL                                                   |
| Cyantraniliprole       | Exirel        | 100 g         | 900 mL                                                   |
| Lambda-cyhalothrin     | Hallmark      | 100 g         | 0.09 L                                                   |
| Lime(Ca(OH\(_2\)), Cuprum, ManZincum | DeLime | -             | 2 kg, 1000 mL, 250 mL                                   |
| Pyrethrin              | Spruzit       | 4.59 g        | 12 L                                                     |
| Spinosad               | Tracer        | 480 g         | 250 mL                                                   |
| Untreated              |               |               |                                                          |

Twenty cherry fruits were sampled at random, ensuring that fruit was picked from the upper, middle, and lower canopy, from each sprayed tree on each sample day (days after treatment (DAT) 0, 1, 4, 7, 14) (9, 10, 13, 16, and 23, July 2015) and placed into clear ventilated Perspex boxes (20 × 10 × 10 cm) with a mesh lid. The boxes were maintained for three weeks (at ~20 °C, >40% RH (relative humidity) 16 h light/8 h dark) and assessed for adult *D. suzukii* emergence. Towards the end of the trial some trees had fewer than 20 cherries available, in which case all fruit were picked, and data was analyzed using the numbers of *D. suzukii* per fruit.

2.2. Leaf Contact Bioassay with Spray Programs

In 2017, in the same experimental orchard, we tested the longevity of spray program efficacy on cherry leaves. Each plot was three trees (24 m\(^2\) soil surface plot\(^{-1}\), 2.4 L plot\(^{-1}\)), separated from adjacent plots by a single guard tree (unsprayed). Fortnightly and weekly spray programs were compared to an untreated control, as shown in Table 2. One plot was sprayed every week (weekly treatment), one plot every fortnight (fortnightly treatment), and one plot remained unsprayed (untreated control), as shown in Tables 2 and 3. Treatments were applied with a Birchmeier B245 air-assisted Knapsack mist blower, as above. Because of approval restrictions on the numbers of products permitted in one season, Gazelle (acetamiprid) and pyrethrin were incorporated into the weekly spray program.

Before each spray application, 20 leaves from each of the 3 plots were collected and placed into deli cups (145 mm, 115 mm diameter; http://www.reptilesupplyco.com). Five leaves were suspended from the lid inside the pot (4 replicates per treatment) that contained moist filter paper and a sugar feeder (5% (w/v) dextrose in deionized water solution). Because the sprays were applied on a Friday, the laboratory leaf bioassay was set up on a Monday and the last time each treatment was applied to the foliage was 10 or 17 days previously. Five male and five female laboratory-reared *D. suzukii* were introduced into each pot and then the mortality was assessed 48 h after introduction. The treatments were assessed each week. To understand the impact of the sprays on fruit damage, at the end of the trial, the fruits in the center of the trees were collected and placed into clear ventilated Perspex boxes (20 × 10 × 10 cm) with a mesh lid. Boxes were maintained for 3 weeks (at ~20 °C, >40% RH, 16 h light/8 h dark) and assessed for adult *D. suzukii* emergence.
Table 2. Timing of leaf collection and spray program applied to cv. Penny cherry experimental orchard trees and the dates the leaf samples were collected for the laboratory *D. suzukii* adult mortality bioassays. Leaves were sampled from all plots just before the next spray was applied. * Always applied on the weekly program, but only every two weeks in the fortnightly program (NA = not applicable). Leaf sampling continued 4 weeks after the final spray was applied (31 July).

| Weekly | Fortnightly | Leaves Collected and then Sprays Applied to Trees * | *D. suzukii* Exposed to Sprayed Leaves (Bioassay Set-Up) |
|--------|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Tracer | Tracer      | 9 June                                              | 14 June                                                |
| Hallmark | NA         | 16 June                                             | 20 June                                                |
| Exirel | Exirel      | 23 June                                             | 27 June                                                |
| Gazelle | NA          | 30 June                                             | 4 July                                                 |
| Tracer | Tracer      | 7 July                                              | 11 July                                                |
| Hallmark | NA         | 14 July                                             | 18 July                                                |
| Exirel | Exirel      | 21 July                                             | 24 July                                                |
| Pyrethrin | NA       | 31 July                                             | 1 August                                               |
| NA     | NA          | NA                                                  | 9 August                                               |
| NA     | NA          | NA                                                  | 15 August                                              |
| NA     | NA          | NA                                                  | 22 August                                              |
| NA     | NA          | NA                                                  | 28 August                                              |

Table 3. Products and rates of plant protection products used in the cherry leaf bioassay in 2017.

| Product     | Active Ingredient | Ai L⁻¹ | Rate ha⁻¹ |
|-------------|-------------------|--------|-----------|
| Tracer      | Spinosad          | 480 g  | 250 mL    |
| Hallmark Zeon | Lambda-cyhalothrin | 100 g  | 90 mL     |
| Exirel      | Cyantraniliprole  | 100 g  | 900 mL    |
| Gazelle     | Acetamiprid       | 20% w/w| 375 g     |
| Pyrethrin 5EC | Pyrethrin        | 5% w/v| 4 L       |

2.3. Fortnightly Spray Trials in Commercial Orchards with and without Mesh

Following the laboratory bioassays and semi-field trials, full fields were conducted at commercial cherry orchards to test the fortnightly spray program in 2018. The two farms selected were in the south east of England at locations where *D. suzukii* was known to occur. At farm site 1, there were five orchards with insect exclusion mesh (<0.9 mm gauge) and one without insect mesh. At farm site 2 both orchards were without insect mesh. As is normal practice, the cherry orchards had a mixture of varieties, as shown in Table 4, and were protected with plastic cladding. The insecticides, as shown in Table 5, were approved at the time of the trial. The growers’ tractor-mounted airblast spray equipment was used to apply the treatments. Water spray volumes were 750 L ha⁻¹ (farm 1) and 200 L ha⁻¹ (farm 2).

Table 4. Cherry varieties in cladding protected commercial orchards used in the farm fortnightly spray program trial in 2018.

| Site | Field Code | Insect Mesh (Y/N) | Varieties Assessed |
|------|------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1    | 1          | Y                 | Kordia, Regina     |
| 2    | Y          | Merchant          |
| 3    | Y          | Kordia, Regina    |
| 4    | Y          | Kordia, Regina    |
| 5    | Y          | Kordia, Regina    |
| 6    | N          | Van               |
| 7    | N          | Skena             |
| 8    | N          | Skena, Penny      |

Y: Yes; N: No.
Table 5. Fortnightly spray programs and dates applied by the growers in 2018. At farm site 1 there was also a spray of Calypso (thiacloprid) on 15 April and 2 May, then Batavia (spirotetramat) on 15 May to control aphid and capsid pests; products were applied by the grower according to the label instructions at the time. At farm site 2 there was a spray of Calypso on 13 April for control of capsids, and Batavia on 15 May for aphid control. The rates used were the same as previously described experiments. Hallmark = Lambda-cyhalothrin, Tracer = spinosad, Exirel = cyantraniliprole.

| Site 1      | Date of Application | Site 2                  | Date of Application |
|-------------|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Hallmark    | 15 May              | Calypso + Tracer        | 30 May              |
| Tracer      | 12 June             | Exirel                  | 19 June             |
| Exirel      | 26 June             | Tracer                  | 28–30 June          |
| Tracer      | 10 July             | Exirel                  | 7 July              |
| Exirel      | 24 July             |                         |                     |

Assessments included adult trap catches; one trap placed within each orchard and one outside the perimeter of the orchard. Biobest traps with Dros’ Attract (Biobest Group NV, Westerlo, Belgium) as the liquid bait were used. The traps were filtered weekly to remove captured insects and the number of adult D. suzukii was recorded.

The incidence of D. suzukii damage to the cherry fruits was assessed each week from white fruit (Biologische Bundesanstalt, Bundessortenamt und Chemische Industrie (BBCH) stone fruit growth stage 81). Forty non-damaged (from cracking), well-shaped, marketable cherries were collected from each plot (20 of each variety). Cherries were picked from the central 10 trees in each of the orchards and from the inside of the canopy on the same day that the leaves for the bioassay were collected.

Collected fruit was incubated for 2 weeks (~22 °C, >40% RH, 16 h light/8 h dark) in Perspex boxes (20 × 10 × 10 cm) with a mesh lid and the numbers of adult D. suzukii emerging from fruit counted.

In addition, from the orchards coded 1 and 7, as shown in Table 4, 25 medium size leaves were sampled weekly. These were divided into groups of five and compared to unsprayed leaves, collected from NIAB EMR. The same 48 h contact mortality test was carried out in deli cups—as above. Five male and five female (age 4–10 days) D. suzukii were introduced into each pot.

2.4. Statistical Analysis

Data was analyzed using Generalized Linear Models (GLM) in R version 3.5.2 [27]. For the insecticide longevity trial (2015), the model ‘Treatment + Row + bs (D, df (degrees of freedom) = 4)’ was fit with the Poisson family with a log link function. The response variable was the number of D. suzukii emerging from sampled fruits. To allow for variation along the tree rows, a smoothing spline (function bs, R package ‘splines’ [27] R Core Team, Vienna, Austria, 2018) vs. D on 4 df where D = Distance from the end of the row) was included in the model. To allow for trees where 20 cherries were not available, log(#Cherries) was included as an offset. Overdispersion was estimated by dividing the residual deviance by the residual degrees of freedom; models with a dispersion estimate greater than 1.8 (day 0) were refitted with the quasibinomial family, models with a dispersion estimate greater than 10 (day 14) were refit using a negative binomial GLM—nb.glm from the MASS package [28]. Significances of the main factors were tested using Analysis of Deviance. Comparisons of different treatments vs. the control were made using Dunnett’s test from R package ‘multcomp’ [29].

For the spray trials in 2017 and 2018, the model ‘Spray Program × Week’ was fit with the binomial family with logit link function. The response variable was the proportion mortality of D. suzukii after 48 h (i.e., dead D. suzukii 48 h/total D. suzukii introduced). The number of D. suzukii introduced in each deli cup was included as a weight (total D. suzukii introduced). Overdispersion was estimated as above. Adjustments for complete separation were done by penalized regression using the ‘brglm2’ package in R. Means of different spray programs were compared using Tukey’s honest significant difference (HSD) test at the 5% confidence level. Comparisons were made for treatment within date.
3. Results

3.1. Efficacy and Longevity of Plant Protection Products

Natural infestation of *D. suzukii* in monitoring traps and fruit increased over the course of the two-week trial (see untreated control as shown in Figure 1). The numbers of adults emerging from the untreated cherries harvested on days 0 and 1 were too low for statistical analyses, however analyses of emergence from days 4, 7, and 14 were possible, as shown in Figure 1.

![Figure 1](image-url)

**Figure 1.** Mean numbers of emerged adult *D. suzukii* from cv. Penny cherries collected 0, 1, 4, 7, and 14 days after spraying in the 2015 trial. Asterisks indicate significant difference to the untreated control using Dunnett’s test (*p* values *<*0.05, **<*0.01, ***<*0.001) at each time point (n = 6) for each individual day. Due to low numbers of *D. suzukii* emerging at days 0 and 1 these were not included in the analyses. For cytraniliprole (day 4) and lambda cyhalothrin (days 4 and 7) *p* values could not be calculated with the Generalized Linear Model (GLM) because the emergence of *D. suzukii* from fruit in these treatments was zero.

There was a significant difference in the numbers of emerged *D. suzukii* between the rows (day 4: \( \chi^2(1) = 58.1, p < 0.05 \), day 7: \( \chi^2(1) = 156.3, p < 0.001 \), day 14: \( \chi^2(1) = 27.42, p < 0.001 \)), along the row (day 4: \( \chi^2(4) = 441.9, p < 0.001 \), day 7: \( \chi^2(4) = 889.9, p < 0.001 \), day 14: \( \chi^2(4) = 156.03, p < 0.001 \)) and, importantly, between treatments (day 4: \( \chi^2(7) = 75.6, p < 0.001 \), day 7: \( \chi^2(7) = 256.9, p < 0.001 \), day 14: \( \chi^2(7) = 69.48, p < 0.001 \)) on some of the dates. An interaction between row and treatment was only observed for day 14 (\( \chi^2(7) = 18.6, p < 0.01 \)). The efficacy of *D. suzukii* control varied with the plant protection product applied and time post spraying. Spinosad, lambda cyhalothrin, acetamiprid, lime, pyrethrin, deltamethrin, and cytraniliprole gave good control, significantly reducing emergence in comparison to the control up to day 7 post spraying. Only spinosad, lambda-cyhalothrin, and cytraniliprole gave control up to 14 days.

3.2. Small Scale Leaf Contact Bioassay with Spray Programs

In the 2017 leaf bioassay there was no significant difference in mortality of *D. suzukii* in contact with leaves from the untreated, weekly, or fortnightly sprayed trees before the sprays began. In addition, the mortality in the replicated laboratory bioassay with leaves from the untreated control plot was <10% throughout the assay. There was higher mortality when *D. suzukii* made contact with leaves sprayed in the weekly and fortnight programs compared to the untreated control once spray applications began (spray program: Week: \( \chi^2(22) = 84.3, p < 0.001 \), as shown in Figure 2.
3.3. Fortnightly Spray Trials in Commercial Orchards with and without Mesh

In the on-farm commercial trials, mean numbers of adult *D. suzukii* captured in the monitoring traps during the fruit ripening period were generally low, as shown in Figure 3. Although numbers at farm site 2 appeared lower than farm site 1, there was no statistical difference in the numbers trapped between the sites (farm site 1 = 6 orchards and farm site 2 = 2 orchards, Tukey’s test, *p* = 0.239). When data was combined for both farm sites there were more *D. suzukii* in the traps around the perimeter of the crop compared to inside the mesh (*p* < 0.001).
In the efficacy and longevity orchard trial there was generally agreement with previous research, concluding that spinosad, lambda cyhalothrin, and cyantraniliprole gave good control; both on adult mortality and fruit damage in cherry crops under protective claddings including how these products can be incorporated into a spray program for season-long control in protected cherries.

From more than 1900 fruits collected during the trial, only one and three D. suzukii from farm site 1 and farm site 2, respectively, emerged (data not analyzed).

Leaves were collected from the commercial trees each week just before the next sprays were applied. Adult flies were introduced to the leaves and mortality assessed after 48 h. There was no difference in mortality between the two sites ($\chi^2(2) = 295.06, p = 0.084$) and data were combined for analyses. The fortnightly spray program resulted in significant D. suzukii adult mortality compared to the untreated control ($\chi^2(1) = 62.09, p < 0.001$), as shown in Figure 4. Spraying ceased once harvesting was complete, but until this time there was always higher adult fly mortality compared to the unsprayed cherry leaves. After spraying ceased, adult D. suzukii mortality was very similar to contact with unsprayed leaves, as shown in Figure 4.

Figure 3. Combined mean trap catches of D. suzukii inside and outside exclusion netting during the 2018 field trial.

Figure 4. Mean adult D. suzukii mortality (%) at 48 h after exposure to cherry leaves sprayed with a fortnightly program compared to an unsprayed control leaves ($n = 5$). Data was analyzed using binomial GLM with logit link function. Different letters denote significant differences at each assessment date (Tukey’s HSD, $\alpha = 0.05$). Arrows indicate spray applications at farm site 1 (black) and farm site 2 (grey).

4. Discussion

In these studies, we have investigated the efficacy of plant protection products on D. suzukii mortality and fruit damage in cherry crops under protective claddings including how these products can be incorporated into a spray program for season-long control in protected cherries.
In the efficacy and longevity orchard trial there was generally agreement with previous research, concluding that spinosad, lambda cyhalothrin, and cyantraniliprole gave good control; both on adult mortality [22] and fewer D. suzukii emerging from fruits [21,30]. The orchard where this trial took place was not a commercial orchard and only the plots in the trial were treated. The pest pressure was high towards the end of the experiment and therefore a robust test of the products.

We firstly screened products for efficacy longevity and encouragingly found several products provided between 7 and 14 days of protection against egg laying. Acetamiprid reduced offspring emergence compared to the untreated control, at 7 days post spraying, although in other studies it is reported as having intermediate effects on mortality when directly applied to adults [31]. The efficacy of acetamiprid on D. suzukii adult mortality was shown to be slightly improved by the addition of sugar as a phagostimulant but only when not exposed to rainfall [32]. Hence, cherries under cladding might benefit from a spray bait formulation of acetamiprid but this remains to be tested. The mineral mixture, DsLime, also gave 7 days of fruit protection and is previously reported to reduce oviposition by several researchers [33–36]. However, there is reportedly limited impact on adult mortality [31,33] and the mechanism is thought to be via an alteration in fruit pH [37]. Lime can leave a chalky residue on fruit [34], but this product is potentially useful in organic systems in combination with other control measures [38] where the numbers of modes of actions of treatments are limited [21,31].

In the on-farm commercial orchard trial, the numbers of D. suzukii adults in the monitoring traps from both unmeshed orchards and inside and outside of meshed orchards were relatively low (maximum mean counts in one week was 15 adult D. suzukii outside the mesh), but numbers were higher around the perimeter of the orchard. Competition between ripening fruit and traps inside orchards reduces the number of flies detected in monitoring traps, often with trap catches rising only once fruit has been harvested [39].

Spinosad, lambda-cyhalothrin, and cyantraniliprole all significantly reduced the numbers of D. suzukii emerging from cherry fruits up to 14 days post foliar application in the first longevity and efficacy trial. Lambda-cyhalothrin, spinosad, and malathion were considered appropriate products toward harvest in US crops leaving low or barely detectable residues in cherry fruit [40]. In both the laboratory and in the field, Shawer et al. [41] found spinosad, lambda-cyhalothrin, and cyantraniliprole not only effective as a preventative method, as in our study, but also as a curative, when applied to cherry fruits after oviposition had occurred. The preventative treatment on cherries resulted in adult mortality of introduced D. suzukii, a reduction in the number of eggs laid per female per day, and reduced emergence from fruit. As a curative treatment, when D. suzukii inoculated cherries were dipped, these products reduced the hatching rate, development of eggs to larval/pupal stages, and next generation emergence. Within their field trial, Shawer et al. [41] failed to prevent fruit damage with the insecticide programs. However, this was attributed to high pest pressure prior to the start of the program [41]. This stresses the importance of implementing D. suzukii control strategies early in the growing season to prevent population growth prior to the appearance of fruit.

Pyrethrin, in our first study, gave up to 7 days protection and significantly reduced D. suzukii emergence in comparison to the control. Pavlova et al. [21] were also able to gain significant control using pyrethrin as a preventative treatment but not as a curative treatment, finding no impact on emergence when applied after egg laying. This indicates that growers may benefit from using pyrethrin products early within a spray program when white fruit appears, retaining products such as spinosad and cyantraniliprole, that have both preventative and curative impacts [21,31,41], for later in the program when population pressures are highest.

In the leaf-contact bioassays, the residual impact of protection products on leaves showed that mortality of adult D. suzukii exposed to 10 or 17 day old residues varied very little. Weekly or fortnightly spray intervals caused significantly higher mortality than contact with unsprayed cherry leaves when D. suzukii adults were exposed for 48 h. Although the mortality assay was done in the laboratory, the leaves were left on the trees for 7 or 14 days post application. Because the crop was under cladding, rainfall could not diminish residues on the leaves [42]. The potential for ultraviolet (UV)
degradation [19] and the growth and expansion of leaves and fruit over time could also contribute to the decreasing dose per area over time. As we were still able to identify a similar level of mortality of adults exposed to the leaves between the 7 and 14 day programs, this does not seem to have occurred over the test period of our experiments.

In the commercial farm crops, a 14-day spray regime, which also employed insect exclusion mesh on many of the orchards, saw only four D. suzukii emerging from 1900 fruits. Adult trap catches were low inside the cropping area compared to outside indicating that this physical barrier is a positive addition to a longer spray interval management approach [6,7,43]. The initial investment required to deploy insect mesh is high [8], however the long life span of the equipment (expected to be between 7–10 years) results in a physical barrier against D. suzukii that can be used for subsequent seasons. This initial cost is also likely to be offset by savings in the use of plant protection products but also labor costs and the handling and disposal of waste fruit. This system has also been highly effective in reducing the immigration of pest numbers including Halyomorpha halys Stål (brown marmorated stinkbug), Cydia pomonella (Linnaeus) (codling moth), and Grapholita molesta (Busck) (oriental fruit moth) into crops [44] from neighboring crops and wild hosts. Therefore, exclusion mesh may also be contributing to integrated pest management (IPM) for other cherry pests. In addition, the structures required to grow cherries or other fruits under cladding can be utilized for the mesh system, removing the need for purpose-built frames and additional costs. D. suzukii can move between crops and wild areas throughout the season [6,45] and cherries are one of the first ripening commercial crops in temperate growing regions [46], hence the use of insect mesh can drastically reduce the occurrence of the pest within cropping areas [43].

In both years, for the 14 day spray program, the alternation of spinosad and cyantraniliprole treatments was within (at the time of writing) the maximum number of applications for cherry. Given the emergence of increased insecticide tolerance in D. suzukii to spinosad in organic cropping [47], rotation of insecticides with different modes of action to prevent insecticide resistance in conventional systems is crucial [48]. It is essential that products representing different modes of action are effective and long lasting under field conditions whilst the fruit is being harvested. The use of cladding might mitigate insecticide resistance build-up as it may prolong the time post-spraying that products are effective. The extended time of effectiveness would reduce the chances that flies will come into contact with degraded sub-lethal pesticide deposits [24]. This, in combination with other IPM controls, including crop hygiene, exclusion mesh, and tightly timed picking, should reduce and prevent damage caused by D. suzukii and avoid resistance developing when the need to use plant protection products is required. It is notable, that post-harvest, and once sprays ceased, the persistence of efficacy reduced over the course of 3 weeks. This is important for resistance management and it is recommended that other non-pesticide controls, e.g., mass trapping, removal of crop debris, and hedgerow management, are employed at this time.

5. Conclusions

These experiments demonstrated that plant protection products, currently used in cladding-protected cherry crops in the UK (spinosad, lambda cyhalothrin, cyantraniliprole), give at least 2 weeks protection from D. suzukii if rotated in a spray program. Within the manuscript we also highlighted the importance of IPM strategies that can be incorporated into cherry production to not only alleviate the pressure caused by D. suzukii in crops but also to reduce resistance build-up to effective plant protection products.

Author Contributions: B.S., M.T.F., and S.H. drafted the original manuscript, S.H. did the data analyses and figures and S.H., B.S., M.F.L.C., and F.R. helped to design the experiments and develop the methodologies in each year. They also did the majority of the practical work. M.T.F. is the grant holder and was instrumental in the conceptualization of the experiments and in the writing and editing of the draft. All have contributed substantially to the work.

Funding: The project was funded by the AHDB (Projects SF 145 and SF/TF 145a).
Acknowledgments: We are grateful to the staff at NIAB EMR who have been involved in this project including David Buss (assistance with trial), Graham Caspell (Estate Manager), Adrian Harris (crop management and spray applications), Greg Deakin (assistance with the statistical analyses), and Richard Harnden for his edits.

Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest. The funders had no role in the design of the study; in the collection, analyses, or interpretation of data; in the writing of the manuscript, or in the decision to publish the results.

References
1. Cini, A.; Anfora, G.; Escudero-Colomar, L.A.; Grassi, A.; Santosuosso, U.; Seljak, G.; Papini, A. Tracking the Invasion of the Alien Fruit Pest *Drosophila suzukii* in Europe. *J. Pest Sci.* 2014, 87, 559–566. [CrossRef]
2. Harris, A.L.; Shaw, B. First Record of *Drosophila suzukii* (Matsumura) (Diptera, Drosophilidae) in Great Britain. *Dipter. Dig.* 2014, 21, 189–192.
3. Farnsworth, D.; Hamby, K.A.; Bolda, M.; Goodhue, R.E.; Williams, J.C.; Zalom, F.G. Economic analysis of revenue losses and control costs associated with the spotted wing drosophila, *Drosophila suzukii* (Matsumura), in the California raspberry industry. *Pest Manag. Sci.* 2017, 73, 1083–1090. [CrossRef] [PubMed]
4. Goodhue, R.E.; Bolda, M.; Farnsworth, D.; Williams, J.C.; Zalom, F.G. Spotted wing drosophila infestation of California strawberries and raspberries: Economic analysis of potential revenue losses and control costs. *Pest Manag. Sci.* 2011, 67, 1396–1402. [CrossRef] [PubMed]
5. Lee, J.C.; Bruck, D.J.; Curry, H.; Edwards, D.; Haviland, D.R.; van Steenwyk, R.A.; Yorgey, B.M. The susceptibility of small fruits and cherries to the spotted-wing drosophila, *Drosophila suzukii*. *Pest Manag. Sci.* 2011, 67, 1358–1367. [CrossRef] [PubMed]
6. Tonina, L.; Mori, N.; Sancassani, M.; Dall’Ara, P.; Marini, L. Spillover of *Drosophila suzukii* between noncrop and crop areas: Implications for pest management. *Agric. For. Entomol.* 2020, 20, 575–581. [CrossRef]
7. Santoiemma, G.; Mori, N.; Tonina, L.; Marini, L. Semi-natural habitats boost *Drosophila suzukii* populations and crop damage in sweet cherry. *Agric. Ecosyst. Environ.* 2018, 257, 152–158. [CrossRef]
8. Del Fava, E.; Ioriatti, C.; Melegaro, A. Cost–benefit analysis of controlling the spotted wing drosophila (*Drosophila suzukii* (Matsumura)) spread and infestation of soft fruits in Trentino, Northern Italy. *Pest Manag. Sci.* 2017, 73, 2318–2327. [CrossRef] [PubMed]
9. Leach, H.; Moses, J.; Hanson, E.; Fanning, P.; Isaacs, R. Rapid harvest schedules and fruit removal as non-chemical approaches for managing spotted wing Drosophila. *J. Pest Sci.* 2017, 91, 219–226. [CrossRef]
10. Noble, R.; Dobrovin-Pennington, A.; Shaw, B.; Buss, D.S.; Cross, J.V.; Fountain, M.T. Fermentation for disinfecting fruit waste from *Drosophila* species (Diptera: Drosophilidae). *Environ. Entomol.* 2017, 46, 939–945. [CrossRef]
11. Wimshurst, F.M. The Cherry Black Fly (*Myzus cerasi*). *Bull. Entomol. Res.* 1925, 16, 85. [CrossRef]
12. Malavolta, C.; Ponti, I.; Pollini, A.; Galassi, T.; Cravedi, P.; Molinari, F.; Brunelli, A.; Pasini, F.; Missere, D.; Scudellari, D.; et al. The application of integrated production on stone fruits in Emilia-Romagna (Italy). *IOBC/WPRS Bull.* 1995, 18, 55–59.
13. Lee, J.C.; Dalton, D.T.; Swoboda-Bhattarai, K.A.; Bruck, D.J.; Burrack, H.J.; Strik, B.C.; Brunelli, A.; Pasini, F.; Missere, D.; Scudellari, D.; et al. Characterization and manipulation of fruit susceptibility to *Drosophila suzukii*. *J. Pest Sci.* 2015, 89, 771–780. [CrossRef]
14. Harnden, R. (Berry Garden Growers Ltd., Kent, UK). When asked to state a percentage of cherry grown under cladding. Personal Observations, 2019.
15. Lang, G.A. (Ed.) *Growing Sweet Cherries Under Plastic Covers and Tunnels: Physiological Aspects and Practical Considerations*; International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS): Leuven, Belgium, 2014.
16. Lang, G.A. (Ed.) *Tree Fruit Production in High Tunnels: Current Status and Case Study of Sweet Cherries*; International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS): Leuven, Belgium, 2013.
17. Meland, M.; Kaiser, K.; Christensen, J.M. Physical and Chemical Methods to Avoid Fruit Cracking in Cherry. *AgroLife Sci.* 2014, 3, 173–183.
18. Chouinard, G.; Firlej, A.; Cormier, D. Going beyond sprays and killing agents: Exclusion, sterilization and disruption for insect pest control in pome and stone fruit orchards. *Sci. Hortic.* 2016, 208, 13–27. [CrossRef]
19. Gautam, B.K.; Little, B.A.; Taylor, M.D.; Jacobs, J.L.; Lovett, W.E.; Holland, R.M.; Sial, A.A. Effect of simulated rainfall on the effectiveness of insecticides against spotted wing drosophila in blueberries. *Crop Prot.* 2016, 81, 122–128. [CrossRef]
Insects 2019, 10, 196

20. Beers, E.H.; van Steenwyk, R.A.; Shearer, P.W.; Coates, W.W.; Grant, J.A. Developing Drosophila suzukii management programs for sweet cherry in the western United States. Pest Manag. Sci. 2011, 67, 1386–1395. [CrossRef]

21. Pavlova, A.K.; Dahlmann, M.; Hauck, M.; Reineke, A. Laboratory bioassays with three different substrates to test the efficacy of insecticides against various stages of Drosophila suzukii (Diptera Drosophilidae). J. Insect Sci. 2017, 17, 8. [CrossRef]

22. Rosensteel, D.O.; Sial, A.A. Efficacy of insecticides against Drosophila suzukii in rabbiteye blueberry, 2015. Arthrodap Manag. Tests 2017, 42. [CrossRef]

23. Schlesener, D.C.H.; Wollmann, J.; Pazini, J.B.; Grutzmacher, A.D.; Garcia, F.R.M. Effects of insecticides on adults and eggs of Drosophila suzukii (Diptera, Drosophilidae). Rev. Colomb. Entomol. 2017, 43, 208–214. [CrossRef]

24. Shaw, B.; Brain, P.; Wijnen, H.; Fountain, M.T. Implications of sub-lethal rates of insecticides and daily time of application on Drosophila suzukii lifecycle. Crop Prot. 2019, 121, 182–194. [CrossRef]

25. Guedes, R.N.C.; Walse, S.S.; Throne, J.E. Sublethal exposure, insecticide resistance, and community stress. Curr. Opin. Insect Sci. 2017, 21, 47–53. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

26. Hulme, T. (A.C. Hulme & Sons, Kent, UK). When asked about the ripening of cherry. Personal Observations, 2017.

27. R Core Team. R: A Language and Environment for Statistical Computing; R Foundation for Statistical Computing: Vienna, Austria, 2018; Available online: https://www.R-project.org/ (accessed on 8 March 2019).

28. Venables, W.N.; Ripley, B.D. Modern Applied Statistics with S, 4th ed.; Springer: New York, NY, USA, 2002.

29. Hothorn, T.; Bretz, F.; Westfall, P. Simultaneous Inference in General Parametric Models. Biom. J. 2008, 50, 346–363. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

30. Van Timmeren, S.; Isaacs, R. Control of Spotted Wing Drosophila, Drosophila suzukii, by Specific Insecticides and by Conventional and Organic Crop Protection Programs. Crop Prot. 2013, 54, 126–133. [CrossRef]

31. Andreazza, F.; Bernardi, D.; Baronio, C.A.; Pasinato, J.; Nava, D.E.; Botton, M. Toxicities and effects of insecticidal toxic baits to control Drosophila suzukii and Zaprionus indianus (Diptera Drosophilidae). Pest Manag. Sci. 2017, 73, 146–152. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

32. Cowles, R.S.; Rodriguez-Saona, C.; Holdcraft, R.; Loeb, G.M.; Elsensohn, J.E.; Hesler, S.P. Sucrose Improves Insecticide Activity Against Drosophila suzukii (Diptera: Drosophilidae). J. Econ. Entomol. 2015, 108, 640–653. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

33. Andreazza, F.; Vacacela Ajila, H.E.; Haddi, K.; Colares, F.; Pallini, A.; Oliveira, E.E. Toxicity to and egg-laying avoidance of Drosophila suzukii (Diptera: Drosophilidae) caused by an old alternative inorganic insecticide preparation. Pest Manag. Sci. 2018, 74, 861–867. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

34. Fried, A.; Schell, E.; Steinnecke, G.; Koppler, K. Control of Drosophila suzukii with DS-Lime in Blackberries. In Proceedings of the 18th International Conference on Organic Fruit-Growing, Hohenhiem, Germany, 19–21 February 2018; pp. 196–199.

35. Strack, T.; Cahenzil, F.; Daniel, C. Kaolin, lime and rock dust to control Drosophila suzukii. In Task Force Drosophila suzukii; Forschungsinstitut Fur Biologischen Landbau: Frick, Switzerland, 2017.

36. Dorsaz, M.; Kuonen, F.; Baroffio, C.A. Current Spotted Wing Drosophila IPM Tactics and Their Practical Implementation in Berry Crops in Switzerland. Acta Hortic. 2017, 1156, 827–832. [CrossRef]

37. Baroffio, C.; Dorsaz, M.; Kuonen, F. Current integrated pest management tactics for the spotted wing Drosophila and their practical implementation in Switzerland. Pesticidi i Fitomedicina 2017, 32, 33–39. [CrossRef]

38. Gargani, E.; Tarchi, F.; Frosinini, R.; Mazza, G.; Simoni, S. Notes on Drosophila suzukii Matsumura, (Diptera Drosophilidae): Field Survey in Tuscany and Laboratory Evaluation of Organic Products. J. Zool. 2013, 96, 85–90.

39. Fountain, M.T.; Cross, J.V.; Buss, D.; Shaw, B.; Morton, J.; Hopson, K.; Cannon, M.; Baets, D.; Harris, A.L.; Delgado, A.; et al. AHDB SF 145 Annual Report: Understanding and Developing Methods for Managing Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD) in the UK: Vital Research to Maintain the Viability of the UK Fruit Industry; March 2016. Report No.: 4, Annual Report for AHDB Contract No.: Report 4; NIAB EMR: Kent, UK, 2017.

40. Haviland, D.R.; Beers, E.H. Chemical Control Programs for Drosophila suzukii that Comply with International Limitations on Pesticide Residues for Exported Sweet Cherries. J. Integr. Pest Manag. 2012, 3, F1–F6.
41. Shawer, R.; Tonina, L.; Tirello, P.; Duso, C.; Mori, N. Laboratory and field trials to identify effective chemical control strategies for integrated management of *Drosophila suzukii* in European cherry orchards. *Crop Prot.* 2018, 103, 73–80. [CrossRef]

42. Van Timmeren, S.; Horejsi, L.; Larson, S.; Spink, K.; Fanning, P.; Isaacs, R. Diurnal activity of *Drosophila suzukii* (Diptera: Drosophilidae) in highbush blueberry and behavioral response to irrigation and application of insecticides. *Environ. Entomol.* 2017, 46, 1106–1114. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

43. Leach, H.; Van Timmeren, S.; Isaacs, R. Exclusion Netting Delays and Reduces *Drosophila suzukii* (Diptera: Drosophilidae) Infestation in Raspberries. *J. Econ. Entomol.* 2016, 109, 2151–2158. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

44. Candian, V.; Pansa, M.G.; Santoro, K.; Spadaro, D.; Tavella, L.; Tedeschi, R. Photoselective exclusion netting in apple orchards: Effectiveness against pests and impact on beneficial arthropods, fungal diseases and fruit quality. *Pest Manag. Sci.* 2019. accepted. [CrossRef]

45. Hennig, E.I.; Mazzi, D. Spotted Wing Drosophila in Sweet Cherry Orchards in Relation to Forest Characteristics, Bycatch, and Resource Availability. *Insects* 2018, 9, 118. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

46. Asplen, M.K.; Anfora, G.; Biondi, A.; Choi, D.S.; Chu, D.; Daane, K.M.; Gibert, P.; Gutierrez, A.P.; Hoelmer, K.A.; Hutchison, W.D. Invasion biology of spotted wing Drosophila (*Drosophila suzukii*): A global perspective and future priorities. *J. Pest Sci.* 2015, 88, 469–494. [CrossRef]

47. Gress, B.E.; Zalom, F.G. Identification and risk assessment of spinosad resistance in a California population of *Drosophila suzukii*. *Pest. Manag. Sci.* 2018, 75, 1270–1276. [CrossRef]

48. Van Timmeren, S.; Mota-Sanchez, D.; Wise, J.C.; Isaacs, R. Baseline susceptibility of spotted wing Drosophila (*Drosophila suzukii*) to four key insecticide classes. *Pest Manag. Sci.* 2018, 74, 78–87. [CrossRef]

© 2019 by the authors. Licensee MDPI, Basel, Switzerland. This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).