

Fact Sheet: Fruit flies

Three species of fruit fly have been identified as the most serious threat to the kiwifruit industry. These are the Oriental Fruit Fly (*Bactrocera dorsalis*, OFly), Mediterranean Fruit Fly (*Ceratitis capitata*, Med fly) and the Queensland Fruit Fly (*Bactrocera tryoni*, Qfly). Each of these species has a well demonstrated ability to cause serious production impacts to a wide range of horticultural species when established. Incursions of breeding populations can result in significant market access implications for kiwifruit exports, especially Qfly as this has a very limited distribution and is likely to result in access implications across nearly all major markets.

Identification



Figure 1. Adult specimens of fruit fly; OFly (top left), Qfly (top right) and Medfly (bottom).

Not to be confused with vinegar flies (*Drosophila*) found around decaying fruit, these fruit flies are a similar size to a common house fly (MedFly ~ 6mm, QFly ~ 6-8mm, and OFly 8mm). These flies have distinct colouring as seen in the images above.

Distribution and climate range

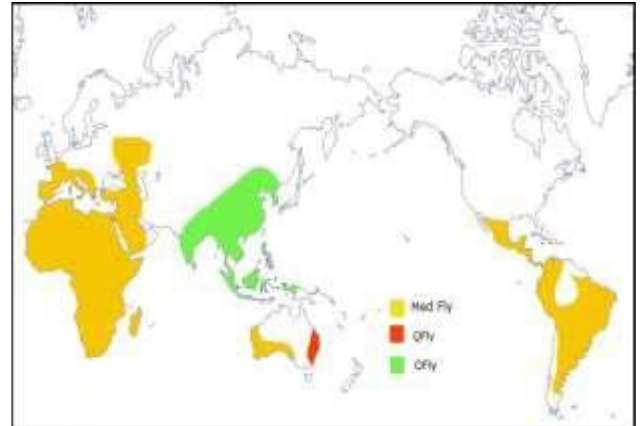


Figure 2. Distribution of OFly (green), Medfly (yellow) and Qfly (red).

New Zealand is fortunate to have country freedom for all three of these flies. Many other countries have at least one present as shown in the figure above. Qfly has the most limited distribution of these species and therefore can result in the greatest market access implications.

Impacts

While fruit flies can impact kiwifruit production, it is the access restrictions that market impose that result in the greatest economic impact to sectors.

Horticulture Innovation Australia estimates the annual cost of control measures, lost exports and contaminated produce related to the Queensland fruit fly is at least A\$150m. Should a breeding population establish in Te Puke economic impacts are estimated to be \$100-\$400 million.

Surveillance

New Zealand has a fruit fly surveillance program that has been operating for almost 20 years and involves over 7500 traps nationwide. There have been 9 recorded fruit fly interceptions since 1989, of which two were breeding populations.

Species specific factsheets are available on the KVH website at www.kvh.org.nz/emerging_risks.

What should you do if you think you have seen this pest?

Phone MPI on 0800 80 99 66 or KVH on 0800 665 825.