

KVH Information Sheet

Most Unwanted update



Fruit Fly – risk update April 2017

Since our last report (29 March), there have been no Queensland fruit fly (QFF) interceptions, and six interceptions of fruit flies of other species.

Fruit fly is considered the greatest biosecurity threat to the kiwifruit industry, as incursions can severely impact where we can sell our fruit which can have significant impacts to grower's orchard gate return. QFF is considered the greatest threat as it has the most market impacts, and has the highest risk of entry as it is native to Australia, our closest neighbour.

QFF and other fruit fly species are regularly intercepted at our border by the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) across a range of pathways. The latest fruit fly interception data (since our last update in March) is shown in the table below.

<i>Fruit fly species</i>	<i>Pathway</i>	<i>Month</i>	<i>Country of origin</i>	<i>Host</i>	<i>Life state</i>
Solanum Fruit Fly	Air Passenger	March 2017	Thailand	Chillies	Alive
Solanum Fruit Fly	Air Passenger	March 2017	Thailand	Chillies	Alive
Solanum Fruit Fly	Air Passenger	March 2017	Thailand	Chillies	Alive
Oriental Fruit Fly	Air Passenger	March 2017	Unknown	Mango	Dead
Oriental Fruit Fly	Private importer	March 2017	Unknown	Guava	Alive
Oriental Fruit Fly	Private importer	March 2017	Sri Lanka	Guava	Alive

So far, over the 2016/17 high-risk period there has been:

- 1 confirmed interception of QFF in November 2016 at Wellington Airport.
- 16 confirmed fruit fly interceptions, compared to 26 over the same period the previous year (38% reduction)

The high-risk entry period for fruit flies runs from September through to June. Interceptions are a reminder that we must remain vigilant and keep watch - the earlier we find an unwanted fly, the greater the chance of successful eradication.

The Solanum Fruit Fly and Oriental Fruit Fly are both prevalent throughout Asia and could have trade impacts for the New Zealand kiwifruit industry if established here.

What's being done

QFF is an established pest in eastern Australia, New Caledonia, and French Polynesia. It is not established anywhere outside the South Pacific, and as such our key markets do not import fruit from countries where it occurs.

There is a Government Industry Agreement (GIA) surveillance programme in place to keep a close and constant lookout for QFF. The programme watches for numerous species of fruit fly and involves traps that are set around the country. Pheromones are used to lure male flies into the traps, which are mostly placed near airports, seaports, and densely populated areas – where flies would most likely enter the country.



As of September 2016, there were more than 3,000 QFF traps established and inspected regularly (out of a total of 7,500 traps). Almost 2000 samples were sent for identification between September 2016 and 6 April 2017 without any positive QFF detections.

As well as the surveillance programme, the GIA has readiness and response activities underway so that in the event of any QFF finds, action is taken that minimises any impacts.

MPI is working with the science community to determine if new technology can be introduced to improve our surveillance or response systems. One exciting new development they are exploring is the *Fruition* lure and trap system for mature, egg-laying female QFF. MPI is working with the trap developers to determine if this system may also be used on other fruit fly species of concern to us, such as the Oriental Fruit Fly.



What you can do

- Know what the QFF looks like so you know what to look out for (the QFF high-risk entry period is over summer and stretches until June).
- When you – or your family or friends travel – make sure fresh fruit and vegetables are left behind and don't travel with you.
- If you hear of someone that has accidentally bought fruit or vegetables in to New Zealand make sure it is reported to MPI and then appropriately destroyed (bagged and put in the rubbish is the best way, not composted).

If you see this pest, or anything else unusual catch it, take a photo and report it to either MPI on 0800 80 99 66 or KVH on 0800 665 825.

