



PEST REPORT SUMMARY

Queensland Fruit Fly

May 2017

1. Queensland Fruit Fly (QFF) remains a biosecurity risk to New Zealand, however the threat of establishment in New Zealand has significantly decreased following the September to April risk period. There have not been any post border finds of QFF since it was discovered and eradicated in Auckland in 2015.
2. During the 2016/2017 risk period, a total of 19 fruit fly interception events were confirmed, all of which occurred through the passenger pathway at Auckland (84%) and Wellington (16%). Three interception events were of QFF, and 16 were other fruit fly species.
3. The first QFF interception event occurred in November 2016, where four live larvae were intercepted in a Mandarin originating from Australia at Wellington Airport. This was followed by two events in April 2017, where two live larvae were intercepted in Apples originating from Australia and an unknown origin¹ at Auckland and Wellington Airport respectively.
4. Interception events relating to other fruit fly species included eight Oriental Fruit Fly, two Pacific Fruit Fly, three Solanum Fruit Fly and three unknown species.² Host material included Chilli (5), Mango (5), Breadfruit (4) and Guava (2) originating from Sri Lanka (5), Unknown Origin (4)³, Thailand (3), India (2) and Samoa (2). The majority (12) of other fruit fly species were intercepted in a live state, at varying life stages including egg (2), pupae (2) and larvae (8).
5. Between 1 September 2016 and 9 May 2017, 2,318 samples from fruit fly surveillance traps were sent for identification without any positive detections of fruit fly species. The 3,502 surveillance traps established throughout New Zealand on a fortnightly inspection regime will remain in place until mid-May in the South Island and lower North Island, and until early July in the upper North Island.
6. MPI will soon be able to utilise *Fruition*, a lure and trap system for mature, egg-laying female QFF. MPI is also working with the trap system's developers on the possibility of testing different versions of *Fruition* on other fruit fly species of concern to New Zealand, such as Oriental Fruit Fly.
7. QFF establishment is highly unlikely outside the risk period, however it is possible there will continue to be sporadic interception events relating to fruit fly species outside of the risk period. Interception events are not likely to occur outside of the passenger pathway, given the strict risk mitigation methods employed for commercial imports of fruit fly host material.
8. Through the passenger pathway, MPI mitigates the QFF risk through a layered and targeted approach including educational media platforms, intervention through risk assessment, passenger screening, full intensive inspections, x-ray screening and Quarantine Detector Dogs. Additional screening and targeting is in place for flights where there is a higher risk of fruit fly host material seizures. Targeting is in place for passengers where there is a risk of intentional concealment of biosecurity risk goods or intentional non-compliance.

¹ Origin is unknown where interception events have occurred from host material disposed of in amnesty bins.

² Laboratory testing conducted by MPI was unable to identify further than genus level.

³ Ibid.