



KVH INFORMATION SHEET

Fruit fly – risk update December 2017

Fruit fly species are regularly intercepted at our border by the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) across a range of pathways over the summer months.

Incursions can severely impact where we can sell our fruit, which can have significant impact on grower’s OGR.

The Queensland Fruit Fly (QFF) is considered the greatest threat as it has the most market impacts, and has the highest risk of entry because it is native to Australia, our closest neighbour.

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.

Since our last report (November 2017) there have been no Queensland Fruit Fly (QFF) interceptions, but there have been two interceptions of other fruit fly larvae on passenger food (species unknown but unlikely to be QFF). Over the same period last year, there were two interceptions of Oriental Fruit Fly, also on passenger food.

All interceptions since the start of the high-risk season in September 2017 are detailed 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>
Pacific fruit fly	Air passenger	September	Fiji	Breadfruit	Alive
Pacific fruit fly	Air passenger	September	Tonga	Breadfruit	Dead
Pacific fruit fly	Air passenger	September	Tonga	Breadfruit	Dead
Oriental fruit fly	Air passenger	October	Unconfirmed **	Banana	Alive
Peach fruit fly	Air passenger	October	India	Guava	Alive
Fruit fly	Air passenger	November	Sri Lanka	Chillies	Alive
Fruit fly	Air passenger	November	Fiji	Mango	Dead

** The passenger arrived in New Zealand on a flight from Australia, however MPI state it is almost certain the larvae originated from the passenger’s travel in South East Asia where Oriental Fruit Fly is prevalent.



What's being done to reduce the risk?

- New Zealand invests in a comprehensive fruit fly surveillance programme which involves almost 8,000 pheromone traps checked on a fortnightly basis. The trapping network is designed for early detection of a breeding population, and uses three different lures which can detect several economically significant fruit fly species including the high-risk Queensland, Mediterranean and Oriental species.
- Over this year's high-risk period so far, almost 40,000 trap inspections have been undertaken. There have been no fruit flies of concern found.
- Hologram technology is being used at Auckland International Airport to demonstrate to travellers the biosecurity risk posed by fruit carried inside luggage. The 3D display follows a hitchhiking fruit fly and the potential damage it could do to an orchard and the fruit industry. The display also doubles as a bin where visitors can ditch any biosecurity hazards they might still have with them.
- A new x-ray machine targeting hand baggage carried by passengers is also being trialled at Auckland International Airport over the summer. The machine targets small bags, which have the highest risk of bringing fruit fly into the country. MPI data shows that nearly 90% of seizures of fruit fly host material are from hand baggage.
- KVH is visiting fruit importers to raise awareness of biosecurity threats, highlight steps they can take to mitigate risk, and spread the message on the importance of biosecurity to the kiwifruit industry. Posters are also being distributed with important and useful information on pests to look out for that importers can display at their facilities.
- MPI lab teams from Auckland and Christchurch completed a fruit fly simulation exercise in early December to refresh preparedness for response activities. An incursion investigator and GIA staff also took part in the exercise, which incorporated site visits, the set-up of mobile laboratories, processing of samples, and reporting of results.

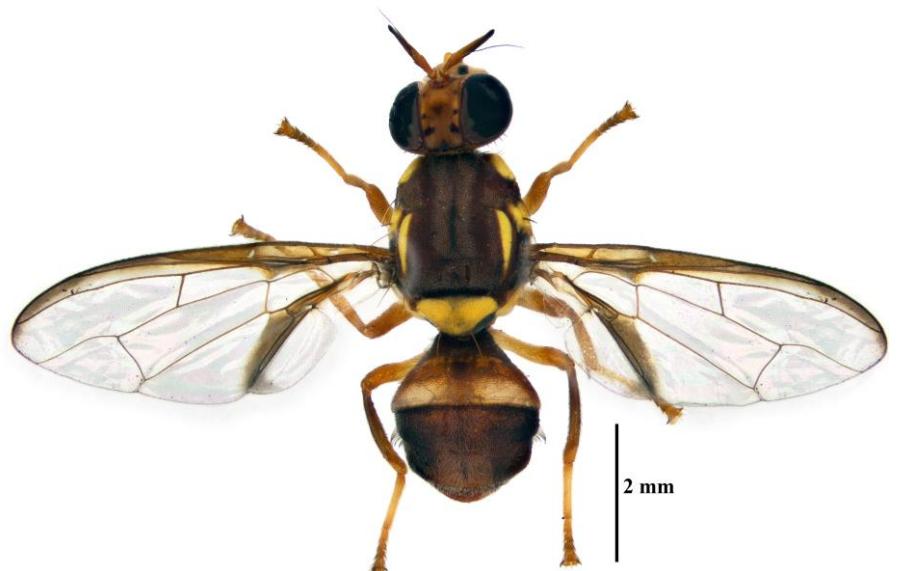
What you can do

Know what the QFF looks like so you know what to look out for. The high-risk entry period for fruit flies is over summer and stretches until June.

Don't take imported fruit into orchards and don't discard waste material near vines.

When you, your friends or family travel - especially over the upcoming Christmas holidays - 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 into 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.