



# KVH INFORMATION SHEET

## Fruit fly risk update – January 2018

Fruit fly species are regularly intercepted at our border by the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) over the summer months and are one of the greatest biosecurity threats to the kiwifruit industry. Incursions can impact where we sell our fruit, which can significantly affect growers OGR.

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



### New QFF finds

Since our last report (December 2017) there have been four interceptions of fruit fly larvae and pupae, both live and dead. Two of these interceptions were QFF – the first time they have been found at the New Zealand border during the 2017/18 risk period. The first QFF interception was on imported oranges (nine dead larvae) in a commercial sea cargo shipment that arrived in Christchurch from Australia. The second QFF interception comprised of three live larvae on chillies that were declared by an air passenger.

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

All interceptions since the start of the high-risk season in September 2017 are detailed in the table below. The four interceptions since our last report are shaded.

<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
Fijian Fruit fly	Air passenger	November	Fiji	Mango	Dead
Peach Fruit Fly	Air passenger	November	India	Guava	Alive
Queensland Fruit Fly	Sea Cargo	December	Australia	Oranges	Dead
Solanum Fruit Fly	Air Passenger	December	Vietnam	Chillies	Alive
Queensland Fruit Fly	Air Passenger	January	Australia	Chillies	Alive

\*\* 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?

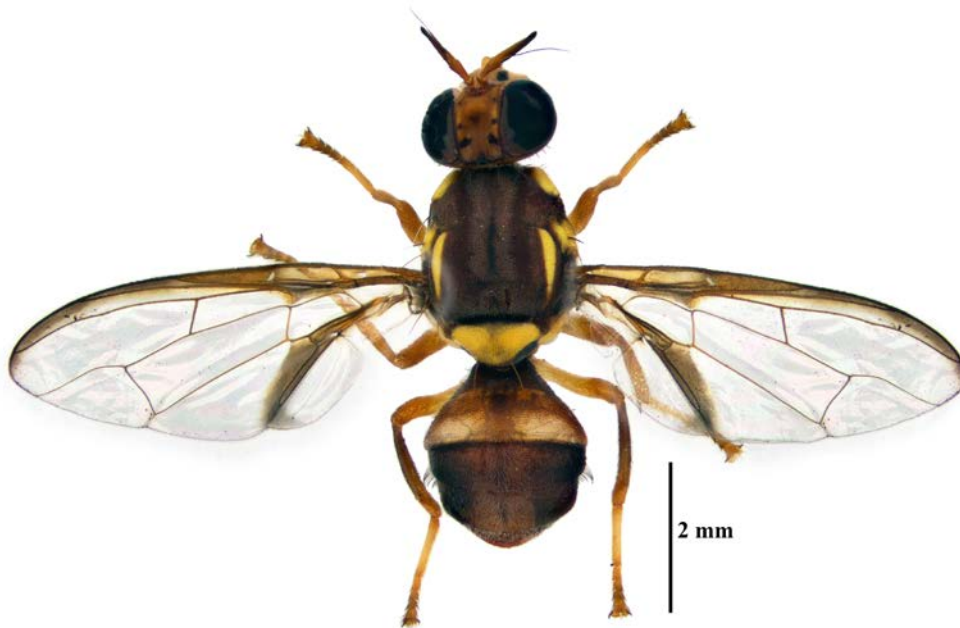
- In the fortnight leading up to Christmas, KVH visited key fruit importers to raise awareness of biosecurity threats, highlight steps they can take to mitigate risk, and spread the message on the importance of biosecurity to the kiwifruit industry. Information and posters were also distributed with useful information about pests to look out for that importers can display at their facilities.
- A new x-ray machine and hologram technology are being used at Auckland International Airport over summer. The x-ray machine targets high risk small bags (MPI data shows that most seizures of fruit fly host material are from hand baggage) and the 3D hologram demonstrates to travellers the biosecurity risk posed by fruit in their luggage by following a hitchhiking fruit fly and the potential damage it could do to an orchard.
- There is a comprehensive fruit fly surveillance programme in place 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 the high-risk period so far (and since September) just over 60,000 trap inspections have been undertaken. No fruit flies of concern have been found, including QFF.

## 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.

When you travel, make sure fruit and vegetables are left behind and don't travel with you. Don't take imported fruit into orchards and don't discard waste material near vines.

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 it's larvae, 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.***