



# KVH INFORMATION SHEET

## Fruit fly risk update – March 2018

Fruit flies are considered the greatest biosecurity threat to the kiwifruit industry, as incursions can severely impact where we sell our fruit, which has significant impacts on grower's OGR.

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

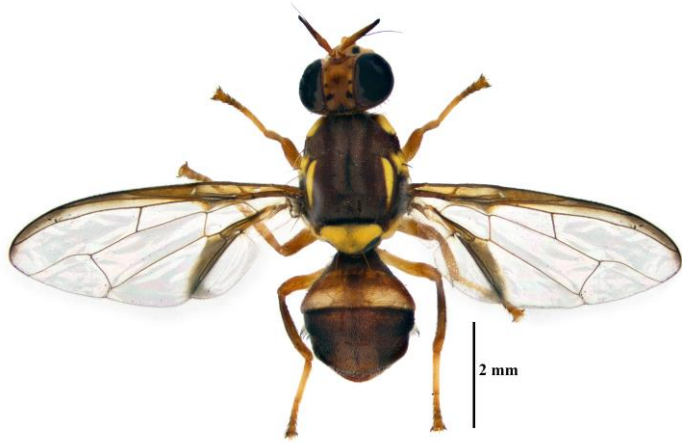


### New finds at the border

Since our last report (February 2018) there have been three new fruit fly interceptions. In the first two cases, QFF larvae were found on fruit - a pear and a peach - deposited in airport amnesty bins. In the third case Pacific Fruit Fly larvae were found on breadfruit being carried by a passenger arriving at Auckland airport.

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

<b>Fruit fly species</b>	<b>Pathway</b>	<b>Month</b>	<b>Country of origin</b>	<b>Host</b>	<b>Life state</b>
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
Pacific Fruit Fly	Air passenger	January	Samoa	Breadfruit	Dead
<i>Queensland Fruit Fly</i>	<i>Air passenger</i>	<i>February</i>	<i>Unconfirmed</i>	<i>Pear</i>	<i>Alive</i>
<i>Pacific Fruit Fly</i>	<i>Air passenger</i>	<i>February</i>	<i>Unconfirmed</i>	<i>Breadfruit</i>	<i>Alive</i>
<i>Queensland Fruit Fly</i>	<i>Air passenger</i>	<i>March</i>	<i>Unconfirmed</i>	<i>Peach</i>	<i>Alive</i>



New Zealand has 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 QFF, Mediterranean and Oriental species.

Since the start of the high-risk period in September 2017 there have been just over 91,000 trap inspections. No fruit flies of concern have been found.

### What's happening overseas?

- Since the February report, there have been further detections of QFF in Tasmania, including five adult flies being discovered on private property 30 kilometres outside of the fruit fly exclusion zone. Control, surveillance and eradication activities continue on the island.
- Fresh produce has been recalled from supermarkets in Tasmania after QFF larvae was found on fruit that had passed through a fumigation facility in Melbourne. All imports from that facility have been suspended.
- South Australia has also been affected. They are managing an outbreak of Mediterranean Fruit Fly as well as several QFF outbreaks in Adelaide, including one at a park near the international airport.
- A trial release of mass sterile male QFF has begun, with another release scheduled for April. It's hoped this will dilute the mating population and eventually lower the overall population of QFF in Adelaide. It is anticipated that in the future mass release of sterile flies will be used to help with small outbreaks in areas with a pest-free status.
- Plant & Food Research were granted permission in mid-2015 to import sterile Queensland fruit flies into a New Zealand containment facility to develop new attractants for female and male flies. This work is part of a collaborative approach with Australian organisations and is supported by KVH as an integral part of our readiness activities. Read more about this work on the fruit flies page of the KVH website.
- The Australian finds and biosecurity responses are being closely followed by KVH and MPI staff to make sure we monitor any change in risk to New Zealand.

### What you can do

- The high-risk entry period for fruit flies runs through to June. Be vigilant and keep watch. While it may be possible to find on fruit trees if present, a better option is to look out for any larvae in fruit, including tree fallen fruit.
- 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).
- Report any finds or anything else unusual to either MPI on 0800 80 99 66 or KVH on 0800 665 825.

