

KVH INFORMATION SHEET

Fruit fly risk update – November 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.



Latest interceptions

During October there was one interception of Oriental Fruit Fly eggs on a consignment of papaya being imported, and one interception of Fijian Fruit Fly larvae found on a guava discarded in an amnesty bin at Christchurch International Airport. There were also five calls to the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) hotline during the month relating to suspected fruit fly, however none resulted in positive finds.

Since the start of the high-risk season (1 September 2018) there have been no QFF interceptions.

All interceptions since the start of the high-risk season are detailed in the table below.

Fruit fly species	Pathway	Month	Country of origin	Host
Oriental Fruit Fly	Cargo	October	Philippines	Papaya
Fijian Fruit Fly	Air passenger	October	Unconfirmed	Guava

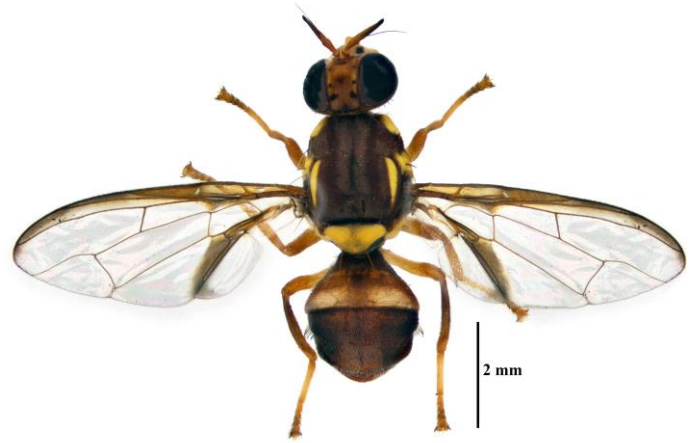
Surveillance traps

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.

The 2018-19 fruit fly trapping season began 1 October 2018 and there have been just over 27,000 inspections. No fruit flies of concern have been found.

What's happening overseas?

- A company in Caloundra, on the Queensland coast, has developed an organic preservative that will be used as a natural pesticide against fruit fly across a series of field trials. Farmers in Kingaroy (about 200km inland from Caloundra) noticed significantly less fruit fly larvae in organic peaches when they applied the product pre-harvest.
- Officials in Florida have worked diligently to eradicate the Oriental Fruit Fly, which has been detected in the state several times over recent decades. In June 2018, three flies were found during trapping activities in the Miami-Dade County which has since been successfully treated with a bait and insecticide mixture. Eradication was formally declared in October.
- Plant & Food Research were granted permission a few years ago to import sterile QFF 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](#).



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**.

