

KVH INFORMATION SHEET

Fruit fly risk update – January 2019

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

There were three interceptions of fruit fly at the border during the month of December. One QFF was found in a consignment of mango from Australia, and a Pacific Fruit Fly egg was found in a consignment of breadfruit from Fiji. At Wellington International Airport, Oriental Fruit Fly larvae was found on a mandarin.

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.

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
Queensland Fruit Fly	Cargo	December	Australia	Mango
Pacific Fruit Fly	Cargo	December	Fiji	Breadfruit
Oriental Fruit Fly	Air passenger	December	Unknown	Mandarin
Oriental Fruit Fly	Cargo	October	Philippines	Papaya
Fijian Fruit Fly	Air passenger	October	Unconfirmed	Guava

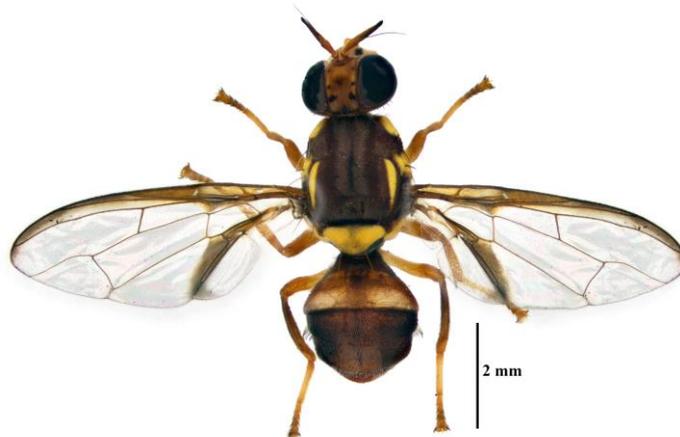
Surveillance traps

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 62,000 inspections. No fruit flies of concern have been found.

What's happening overseas?

- An outbreak of QFF has been detected in Loxton, South Australia after seven male flies were discovered. A quarantine zone here will remain in place until mid-March 2019 (provided no further flies or larvae are detected).

The Loxton area is within a district recognised as a QFF free area, so a response has been initiated by biosecurity officials that includes a 1.5km outbreak zone and a 15k suspension zone. Fruit cannot move from the outbreak zone and fruit can only move from the suspension zone if it has been treated as per accreditation standards.



- Biosecurity authorities in Tasmania are ramping up fruit fly control-measures after the discovery of another adult fly on Flinders Island. The latest discovery means the current control area restrictions will remain in place until at least March.
- Emerging pests are increasingly threatening orchard health across the Mediterranean. The fruit flies *Bactrocera zonata* (Peach Fruit Fly) and those belonging to *Bactrocera dorsalis* (Oriental Fruit Fly) complex are among the most alarming species. Due to these ongoing threats, in the Campania region of southern Italy, a survey with traps and infested fruit analysis was undertaken to detect the presence of Oriental Fruit Fly. In two fruit tree fields some adults belonging to a species of *Bactrocera* were captured, representing the first field interception in Europe of one of the most dangerous groups of fruit flies.
- 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**.

