



KVH INFORMATION SHEET

Fruit fly risk update – March 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 two interceptions of fruit fly at the border during the latest reporting period of 12 February 2019 to 7 March 2019. Both interceptions were at Auckland International Airport - larvae was found on guava that was placed in a quarantine bin, and larvae was also found on chillies arriving with a passenger from Malaysia.

All interceptions since the start of the high-risk season (1 September 2018) are detailed in the table below.

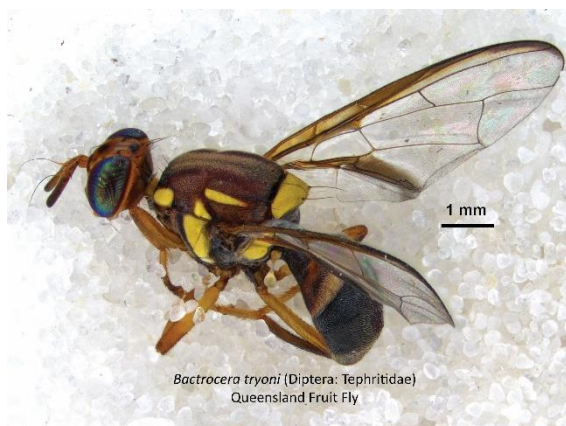
Fruit fly species	Pathway	Month	Country of origin	Host
Peach Fruit Fly	Air passenger	February	Unknown	Guava
Solanum Fruit Fly	Air passenger	February	Malaysia	Chillies
Queensland Fruit Fly	Cargo	January	Australia	Mango
Fijian Fruit Fly	Air passenger	January	Unknown	Capsicum
Pacific Fruit Fly	Air passenger	January	Samoa	Breadfruit
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

Since 14 February 2019 there have been several detections of fruit flies in Auckland. Single male QFF have been found in separate surveillance traps in the North Shore suburbs of Devonport and Northcote. Single male *Facialis* fruit flies have been found in separate surveillance traps in Ōtara.

Responses to the detections are being run under the Government Industry Agreement (GIA) partnership and industry groups, namely KVH, are taking a leadership role on the response governance team. The key points to note:

- The responses set up in Otara, Devonport, and Northcote are running well and are following the pre-agreed operational plans established and tested in previous responses. Industry groups involved in the decision-making processes – such as KVH - are ensuring the interests of New Zealand’s primary producers are represented fully and the most appropriate action is taken to minimise any impact on growers.
- Industry groups are contributing people and resources to the response. As of mid-March, the kiwifruit industry alone had contributed 154 days of staff time, made up of mostly KiwiNet responders taking part in activities like surveillance, trapping, and public education/awareness. [View a photo gallery](#) of the KiwiNet team on the response.
- It’s been a priority since the day of the very first find to determine whether there are more flies in the area, and if so, stop them from spreading any further. All the flies have been found in traps, which are very sensitive and an internationally proven method of surveillance.
- To date, there is no evidence of a breeding population. This is good news that can give growers continued confidence in New Zealand’s biosecurity system, as well as the response actions taken so far.
- As a result of the detections, border processes have been heightened by Biosecurity New Zealand. All internationally arriving passengers from both aircraft and cruise ships now face an increase in risk assessment and auditing processes. For example, vessels that have passed through fruit fly risk areas receive increased inspections.
- KVH and the Fruit Fly Council (a governance group of industry representatives set up under the GIA partnership) back the independent review of the air passenger, cruise and mail pathways announced after the first flies were found. [KVH has publicly supported](#) this review because although there will always be some risk of unwanted pests and diseases getting here, it’s imperative everything is done to try and stop them. If there are any holes in the system currently, they need to be found and immediately fixed.

During the reporting period there were around 1500 calls to the Biosecurity New Zealand hotline relating to suspected fruit fly, however none resulted in positive finds (all finds have been in surveillance traps).



QFF on the left as found in Devonport and Northcote, and Facialis Fruit Fly as found in Otara.

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 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 101,000 inspections to date.

What's happening overseas?

- The South Australian Government has 'declared war' on a Loxton QFF outbreak with the release of millions of sterile flies. The release occurs over several weeks - the sterile flies will mate with any remaining wild flies to help eradicate them. The Loxton quarantine zone will be lifted at the end of April without any further detections.
- 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](#).
- A new outbreak of Mediterranean Fruit Fly has been declared in Thevenard, South Australia following the detection of larvae. This follows the successful eradication to an outbreak in November 2018.

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 Biosecurity New Zealand 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 Biosecurity New Zealand on **0800 80 99 66** or KVH on **0800 665 825**.



CATCH IT

SNAP IT

REPORT IT

REPORT THE UNUSUAL