



Queensland Fruit Fly 2019 – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

As at 26 April 2019

General information about the Queensland Fruit Fly

What is a Queensland fruit fly?

Queensland fruit flies spoil many horticultural crops, often making them inedible. If it became established here it could have serious consequences for New Zealand's horticultural industry. It could lead to restrictions on trade in some of our horticultural exports.

The pest is difficult to catch at the border because it can arrive as eggs or tiny larvae concealed inside fruit.

Queensland fruit fly is a different species to the facialis fruit fly and is not related to the Ōtara situation.

What does the Queensland fruit fly look like?

Queensland fruit flies are about 6 to 8 mm long and are reddish-brown coloured with yellow markings. See the images below.

The larvae (pictured below) can be found in fruit and look like grains of rice. If you believe you have seen a fruit fly or larvae, call 0800 80 99 66.



What should someone do if they suspect they've seen Queensland fruit fly?

If you find larvae (look like grains of rice) in fruit, or believe you have seen a fruit fly, call 0800 80 99 66.



Information for residents in Controlled Areas

How was the Queensland fruit fly first detected?

A solitary male fly was formally identified following a find in a surveillance trap in Devonport on 14 February 2019. Since then a further seven male flies have been found in traps in Northcote. At this stage, there is no indication there is a breeding population of Queensland fruit fly here.

What crops are affected by the Queensland fruit fly?

Some of the key fruits and vegetables that the Queensland fruit fly likes and can be found on include all citrus fruits, all stone fruit, pears, passionfruit, feijoa, grapes, guava, blackberry, boysenberry, cape gooseberry, custard apple, quince, persimmon, crab-apple, loquat, kumquat, pumpkin, olives, avocado, tomato, eggplant, and capsicum.

A full list of fruit and vegetables that the fly feeds will be available on www.biosecurity.govt.nz/QueenslandFruitFly

How long could the Queensland fruit fly survive in New Zealand?

Our models suggest Queensland fruit fly could survive in some warmer parts of New Zealand. In Australia it has moved south into areas that have conditions more similar to New Zealand's climate.

What is Biosecurity New Zealand doing to manage this find?

Biosecurity New Zealand reintroduced controls on the movement of fruit and vegetables in Northcote on April 26. This followed the detection of a further Queensland fruit fly in the area.

Residents in Northcote area can find full information about what they need to do at: www.biosecurity.govt.nz/QueenslandFruitFly

The previous restrictions on the movement of fruit and vegetables were lifted earlier in April, although additional surveillance was kept in place as a precautionary measure.

Restrictions on the movement of fruit and vegetables in Devonport were lifted in March.

Despite this latest find, there is still no evidence of a breeding population.

Where is the Controlled Area?

Detailed maps of the controlled areas and a full description of the boundaries, and full information about the rules are available, here: www.biosecurity.govt.nz/QueenslandFruitFly

The controlled area is made up of Zone A which is the highest risk area closest to where the fly was found. Zone B presents a smaller risk. Detailed maps of the controlled area and a full description of the boundaries, and full information about the rules are available, here:

www.biosecurity.govt.nz/QueenslandFruitFly

What are the restrictions on moving fruit and vegetables in the Controlled Area?

Whole fresh fruit and vegetables (except for leafy vegetables and root vegetables) cannot be moved outside of the A Zone of the Controlled Area. This is the area that extends 200m out from where the flies have been found. Home-grown vegetables cannot be moved out of a B Zone that goes out 1.5km from the find.

In short, the restrictions on moving fruit and vegetables are:



- **Zone A** – NO whole fruit or vegetables (except leafy and root vegetables like lettuce, cabbage, bok choy, rhubarb, broccoli, brussels sprouts, carrots, parsnips, potatoes, kumara, celery, onions, spring onions) can be taken out of Zone A.
- NO fruit or vegetable waste or garden waste can be taken out of Zone A.
- NO fruit or vegetables waste (ie fruit skins and cores/stones, peelings etc) or garden waste (i.e. prunings from fruit trees or vegetable garden cuttings) can be taken out of Zone A.
- Fruit or vegetables, including waste should either be disposed of in a home in-sink disposal unit or put into specially supplied Biosecurity New Zealand bins.
- Garden waste (i.e. fruit tree clippings) should be put into specially supplied Biosecurity New Zealand bins.
- **Zone B** – you must not move **home-grown** fruit and vegetables out of Zone B. In other words produce grown inside Zone B cannot be moved out of it. If you brought any produce into Zone B from Zone A before the response this must be consumed or disposed of into the specially supplied Biosecurity New Zealand bins. You are free to move commercially-purchased fruit and vegetables (ie fruit and vegetables brought at the supermarket) out of Zone B. Home grown produce waste and garden waste needs to be disposed of in Biosecurity New Zealand bins.

If in doubt, don't take it out.

What do I do regarding my regular rubbish collection?

If you live in Zone A, all whole fruit and vegetables, plus garden waste should be put in your home in-sink disposal unit or the specially supplied Biosecurity New Zealand bins.

If you use council or private rubbish collection services please make sure there are NO fruit, vegetable or garden waste in these bins.

Contact your local council for rubbish collection dates and times.

What can I do with cooked fruit and vegetables if I live in the Controlled Area?

Cooked food is not subject to movement controls.

What if I want to make lunch to take out of the controlled area?

If you live in the Controlled Area (see map) and you're preparing lunch for work or school, you can still include fruit and vegetables, just make sure it's cut up and you can't see any larvae in it.

What if my neighbours gives me fruit and vegetables from their garden?

If you live in the Zone A or Zone B you are welcome to consume fruit and vegetables that have been given to you by neighbours from within those zones.

The main thing we don't want you to do is to take those fruit or vegetables out of the zone.

The reason for asking you to not take fruit and vegetables out of the controlled area is to reduce the risk of any fruit flies hitchhiking on it.

What if I want to take fruit and vegetables to church?

If your church is in the Controlled Area (see map) and you're planning on taking fruit and vegetables along, that is fine. But please do not take it back out of the Controlled Area. It should be disposed of in the specially provided Biosecurity New Zealand bins. This is to make sure any fruit flies don't hitchhike out.



If in doubt, don't take it out.

[I am playing sport this weekend. Can I take fruit and vegetables?](#)

If your game is in the Controlled Area (see map) and you're planning on taking fruit and vegetables along, that is fine. But please do not take it out of the Controlled Area. It should be disposed of in the specially provided Biosecurity New Zealand bins. This is to make sure any fruit flies don't hitchhike out.

If in doubt, don't take it out.

[I have a stall at a local market, can I still sell fruit and vegetables?](#)

If you have a stall at the market you cannot sell any fruit or vegetables that have been grown in Zone A or Zone B.

[Can I still contribute fruit and vegetables to community pantries?](#)

If you live in the controlled area (Zone A or Zone B) you can still contribute fruit and vegetables to your community pantries.

The main thing we don't want you to do is to take those fruit or vegetables out of the zone the community pantry is in – see map on our website – www.biosecurity.govt.nz/QueenslandFruitFly.

To find out if you're in the controlled area – see map on our website – www.biosecurity.govt.nz/QueenslandFruitFly.

If in doubt, don't take it out.

[Can I still take fruit and vegetables from the community pantries?](#)

If you live in the controlled area (Zone A or Zone B) you can still take fruit and vegetables from community pantries.

The main thing we don't want you to do is to take those fruit or vegetables out of the zone the community pantry is in – see map on our website – www.biosecurity.govt.nz/QueenslandFruitFly.

However, if you think you've seen a larvae in it (they look like grains of rice), or believe you've seen a fruit fly, call 0800 80 99 66.

If in doubt, don't take it out.

[How did the Queensland fruit fly get here?](#)

Biosecurity New Zealand has commenced an investigation into how the fruit flies have entered the country.

Biosecurity New Zealand's border controls are extremely tight and effective and they are backed up by an active surveillance system. With these latest detections that system has put us in the best possible position to respond quickly and ensure New Zealand remains free of these pests.

Detections of unwanted organisms are evidence of the value of Biosecurity New Zealand's multi-layered biosecurity system.

That said, it is important we continue to learn and evolve our biosecurity system.

[What happens if there is an established breeding population?](#)

If an established breeding population is found, a decision would be made to attempt to eradicate it or manage it over time. Biosecurity New Zealand has successfully eradicated the Queensland fruit fly before, in 2015.



Information for Exporters

I'm an exporter, what restrictions are in place for me?

We have established an Export Restriction Zone (ERZ) of 3.2km around the Controlled Area. This means export consignments of Queensland fruit fly host material must meet additional requirements to move through the ERZ and be eligible for export.

All Queensland fruit fly host material destined for export and travelling through an Export Restriction Zone must be contained in an insect-proofed environment and some additional documentation provided.

We've prepared the following information and guidance about the Export Restriction Zone and transit requirements.

Download the FAQs for Exporters: <https://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/dmsdocument/33214-qff2019-exporter-faq-feb-2019-march-1-pdf>

Download the requirements and guidance for exporters:
<https://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/dmsdocument/33208-requirements-and-guidance-for-the-export-of-fruit-fly-host-material>

Export Restriction Zone Map: <https://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/dmsdocument/33196-qff201902-traderestrictions-northcote-3km-pdf>

Where can I find information on pest proofing requirements?

The pest-proofing requirements can be found on the Biosecurity New Zealand website:
<https://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/dmsdocument/33208-requirements-and-guidance-for-theexport-of-fruit-fly-host-material>

What is the difference between a Controlled Area and an ERZ?

The purpose of the Controlled Area is to enforce movement controls of all host material and implement other measures under the Biosecurity Act 1993 as necessary to eradicate Queensland fruit fly. All fruit fly host material, domestic and for export, is subject to the movement controls set out in the Controlled Area Notice. An ERZ is a defined zone from which fruit fly host material intended for export cannot be harvested, packed or stored.



Compensation

What compensation will be provided for affected businesses?

Response staff will be working with local retailers to explain the detail of the movement controls and how they may impact their businesses. Local retailers are eligible to apply for compensation for verifiable losses incurred as a result of the legal directions.

For more information about compensation, phone 0800 88 83 33 or email compensationcoordinator@mpi.govt.nz.

Queensland Fruit Fly trapping programme

How does the Queensland fruit fly trapping programme work?

Biosecurity New Zealand operates a fruit fly surveillance programme throughout the country that is equivalent to surveillance programmes operated in other countries. The technology is highly effective and is accepted internationally as providing proof of area freedom when coupled with rigorous response protocols in the event that flies are detected.

By setting traps for these pest insects, we are able to find them early, have assurance about exactly where the problem is located and respond faster and more effectively where finds are made.

How many traps are used for the trapping programme and where are they located?

There are more than 7,500 traps monitored nationally on behalf of Biosecurity New Zealand. The traps are all located in residential backyards throughout the country in populated areas of highest risk.

How often are the traps checked?

Our Queensland fruit fly traps are normally checked every two weeks.

They are checked more regularly when Queensland fruit flies are found in the traps, like they have been recently.

Traps in the Zone A areas are checked every day for the first seven days after a find and then every three days until otherwise directed. Traps in the B Zone are being checked every three days until otherwise directed.

Can I put a Queensland fruit fly trap in my backyard?

If you would like a Queensland fruit fly trap in your backyard we will add your name and details to our database. However, it is important to note we use a systematic grid to locate traps in the right places throughout the country, so your property might not be in the right location for where our traps need to be.