

FRUIT FLY RISK UPDATE



FEBRUARY 2024

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.

During the 2023/24 high-risk season (1 September 2023 - 30 April 2024) there has been no detections of QFF. However, in February 2024 a Jarvis' fruit fly was found in air-freighted mangoes from Australia.

Jarvis' fruit fly is considered a moderate pest in Queensland and the Northern Territory and is native to Australia.



REDUCING RISK

There are currently 51 outbreaks of QFF in South Australia. Restrictions across the state are in place until 6 October and this is revised with any new detection.

Fruit fly host commodities from the affected areas are unable to be certified for export to New Zealand with the declaration 'sourced from an area free from fruit fly'. If the agreed cold treatment is used these commodities may be exported.

Mediterranean fruit fly eradication efforts continue in Chile. Any fruit grown or packed within the suspension areas is not eligible to be exported to New Zealand.

PREPAREDNESS

New Zealand has a comprehensive fruit fly surveillance programme in place which involves almost 8,000 pheromone traps checked fortnightly.

The trapping network is designed for early detection of breeding populations and uses three different lures which can detect many different fruit flies, including the economically significant QFF, Mediterranean and Oriental fruit flies.

There have been just over 100,000 trap inspections as at latest data collection, with 6,822 samples from the traps submitted for testing. All have been negative for fruit fly.

PREPAREDNESS CONT.....

In addition, the programme includes a trial this season of traps that use technology to ID possible QFF finds and significantly improve response times in the event of a detection.

Called 'RapidAIM' these traps are specifically designed to detect only QFF - sensors at each trap entrance evaluate the behaviour of the insect entering the unit and predict whether it is a QFF. If so, an alert is automatically sent that specifies the exact trap and location, without relying on a scheduled manual inspection.

There are 100 RapidAim traps in place supplementing the surveillance programme, funded by Government Industry Agreement (GIA) partners.

KVH has developed a guide for growers, detailing the likely sequence of events if a fruit fly response was to occur in a kiwifruit growing region. View the guide online at kvh.org.nz (sample on the right).



WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR

It is often difficult to spot adult fruit flies on fruit trees; the better option is to look out for any larvae in fruit.

Fruit flies lay their eggs inside ripening fruit - they look like grains of rice.



REPORT THE UNUSUAL

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BIOSECURITY NEW ZEALAND 0800 80 99 66



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SNAP IT



REPORT IT