

FRUIT FLY RISK UPDATE



MARCH 2026

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.

The 2025/26 high-risk season runs 1 September 2025 - 30 April 2026. On 7 January a single male QFF was detected in a surveillance trap in Mt Roskill, Auckland. A response was initiated, and then closed 20 February with no further finds. On 25 February a single male Oriental fruit fly was found in a surveillance trap in Papatoetoe, Auckland. A response is currently underway and more information available at kvh.org.nz.



Image: Queensland Fruit Fly (QFF)



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.

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 left).

