KVH INFORMATION SHEET

Fruit fly risk update – September 2022

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.

No new finds

- September is the start of the high-risk season for fruit flies (which runs through the New Zealand summer and autumn to June 2023).
- There have been no interceptions of live fruit flies or larvae this month (the latest reporting period).
- There have not been any notifications of suspected fruit flies received from the public.

Surveillance traps

- 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 13,000 trap inspections already this season, with 545 samples from the traps submitted for testing. All have been negative for fruit fly.
- In addition, the programme also 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 60 RapidAim traps in place now, supplementing the surveillance programme.

Prepared to respond

- 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. See the guide on the KVH website here.

- Biosecurity New Zealand's response structure has been refreshed for this high-risk season, and a response simulation exercise is planned for November that will focus on laboratory systems, mobile response lab set up, and field operation responsibilities.

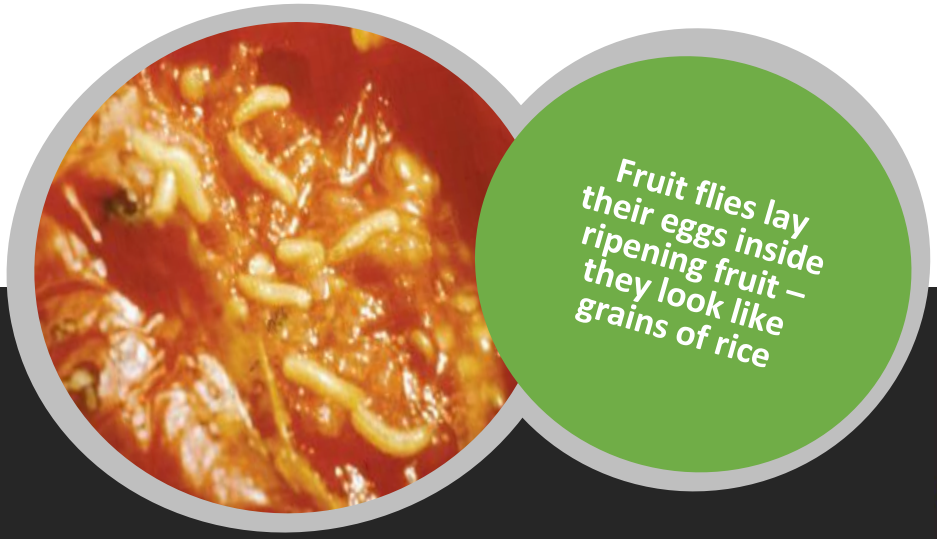
- KVH is also planning a biosecurity response exercise for KiwiNet members (biosecurity champions from across the kiwifruit industry) in November. While not focused on fruit flies, the exercise will be a training exercise and reminder of overall response operations and how members of KiwiNet can contribute to field operations of any large response.

Fruit fly outbreaks close to home

- There are 15 outbreaks of QFF in South Australia currently. Restrictions across the state are due to be removed around 26 December, pending no further outbreaks.

What you can do

- The most likely way that fruit flies can arrive New Zealand is in infested fresh fruit and vegetables. It is often difficult to spot adult fruit flies on fruit trees; the better option is to look out for any larvae in fruit. 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