

Fact sheet: Fruit flies



Three species of fruit fly larvae have been identified as the most serious threat to the kiwifruit industry. These are the Oriental Fruit Fly (*Bactrocera dorsalis*), Mediterranean Fruit Fly (*Ceratitis capitata*) and the Queensland Fruit Fly (*Bactrocera tryoni*). Each of these species has a well demonstrated ability to cause serious production impacts to a wide range of horticultural species when established. Incursions of breeding populations can result in significant market access implications for kiwifruit exports, especially the QFF as this has a very limited distribution and is likely to result in access implications across nearly all major markets.

Identification

Not to be confused with vinegar flies found around decaying fruit, these fruit flies are a similar size to a common house fly.

The Oriental Fruit Fly is around 8mm, the Mediterranean Fruit Fly up to 6mm, and the QFF up to between 6-8mm. These flies have distinct colouring as seen in the images to the right.

While fruit flies can impact kiwifruit production, it is the access restrictions that markets impose that result in the greatest economic impact.

Horticulture Innovation Australia estimates the annual cost of control measures, lost exports and contaminated produce related to the QFF is at least A\$150m. Should a breeding population establish in Te Puke economic impacts are estimated to be \$100-\$400 million.



Figure 1. Adult specimens of fruit fly; Oriental Fruit Fly (top left), Queensland Fruit Fly (top right) and Mediterranean Fruit Fly (bottom).

Distribution and climate range

New Zealand is fortunate to have country freedom for all three of these flies. Many other countries have at least one present as shown in the figure above. QFF has the most limited distribution of these species and therefore can result in the greatest market access implications.

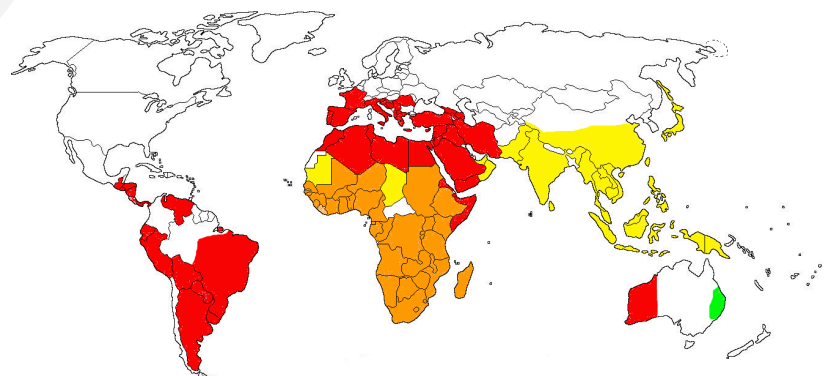


Figure 2. Map showing fruit fly distribution.

- Yellow: Oriental Fruit Fly
- Red: Mediterranean Fruit Fly
- Green: QFF
- Orange: Mediterranean/Oriental Fruit Fly

Surveillance

New Zealand has a fruit fly surveillance programme that has been operating for almost 20 years and involves over 7,500 traps nationwide.

What should you do if you think you have seen this pest?

Phone MPI on 0800 80 99 66 or KVH on 0800 665 825