

FACT SHEET



Queensland Fruit Fly

Queensland Fruit Fly (QFF), or *Bactrocera tryoni*, is a very serious pest of a wide variety of hosts and is a particular threat to northern New Zealand.

Damage levels can be up to 100% of unprotected fruit. In addition to physical damage, QFF inflicts economic damage through loss of market access (breeding populations can result in significant implications for kiwifruit exports) and costs associated with quarantine and monitoring.

Identification

The adult female is 6-8mm long with a 10-12mm wingspan. The wings are mostly transparent, marked with brown and the fly is reddish brown with yellow markings.

Eggs are small (less than 1mm long), white and banana shaped. Larvae grow to 6-8mm long and are pale yellow.

Images right: side and top views of the QFF. Image below larvae in a mango.



Signs and symptoms

QFF are most active in warm, humid conditions. They might be seen walking on the undersides of leaves or on maturing fruit after rain. Damage to fruit results from eggs being laid in fruit, feeding by the larvae, and decomposition of plant tissue by secondary microorganisms.

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Distribution and climate range



QFF is indigenous to Australia (not present in South and Western Australia) but has the potential to establish populations in other tropical areas. It is the major fruit fly pest species in Eastern Australia and occurs in large populations.

Although usually found in the warmer areas of Australia, it has been detected in Tasmania, indicating that adult flies may be able to establish in New Zealand, especially in warmer regions.

QFF is also established in New Caledonia and the Austral Islands.

Surveillance

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

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