

Queensland Fruit Fly



Why manage?

To produce clean, marketable fruit

What is Qfly, and why do I need to manage it?

In Australia there are two main species of fruit flies; Queensland Fruit Fly (*Bactrocera tryoni*) and Mediterranean Fruit Fly (*Ceratitis capitata*). Queensland Fruit Fly (Qfly) occurs in the east (in parts of Northern Territory, Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria) and Mediterranean Fruit Fly occurs only in the west (in parts of Western Australia).

Qfly is mobile, over short distances only, and has the ability to move from vineyard to vineyard for example, or from native or urban hosts into commercial production areas. The wide host range, or polyphagous, nature of Qfly makes management over large areas difficult; Qfly has over 100 known plant hosts.

Qfly is native to Australia, but is a serious insect pest of Australian horticulture. Having a large host range means that more than three quarters of Australian fruit and vegetable exports are susceptible. With available management efforts, estimates of production losses in endemic areas range from 0.5% to 3% annually but without control, production losses due to Qfly can be much higher.

Adult female flies lay eggs into maturing fruit, which hatch inside the fruit and the larva feed within the fruit. When the female 'stings' the fruit to lay eggs, a wound or 'sting' mark can result.

It is important to manage Qfly in field, to produce clean and marketable fruit.

Management Objectives

To produce clean, marketable fruit

To increase buyer confidence

To underpin market access

To contribute to AWM

To progress regional fruit fly status



Adult fly 'stings' and larval damage.

Photo: A. Loch

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