

APPENDIX 12

WA BERRY BIOSECURITY: UPDATE

MARCH 2021

This information is proudly delivered through the Hort Innovation funded Berries Australia industry development and communications project (MT18020).

FALL ARMYWORM FOUND FEEDING ON A HORTICULTURAL CROP NEAR GINGIN

Fall armyworm larvae were recently detected feeding in a horticultural crop (melons) in Gingin.

Horticulture growers are encouraged to check for larvae in their crops and monitor for unusual levels of damage. Pheromone traps can also be used to monitor for the moths as an early warning for the presence of larvae. Contact PaDIS if you would like to host a trap on your property.

What to look for:

- Leaf damage, including pinholes, windowing and defoliation.
- Newly hatched larvae, which are more active at night, and eat pinholes and transparent windows in leaves.
- Bigger larvae grazing on leaves, stems and fruit, and leave frass (droppings).

Report suspected fall armyworm damage to DPIRD's Pest and Disease Information Service (PaDIS) by calling 9368 3080 or email padis@dpiird.wa.gov.au or use the [MyPestGuide Reporter app](#).

More information:

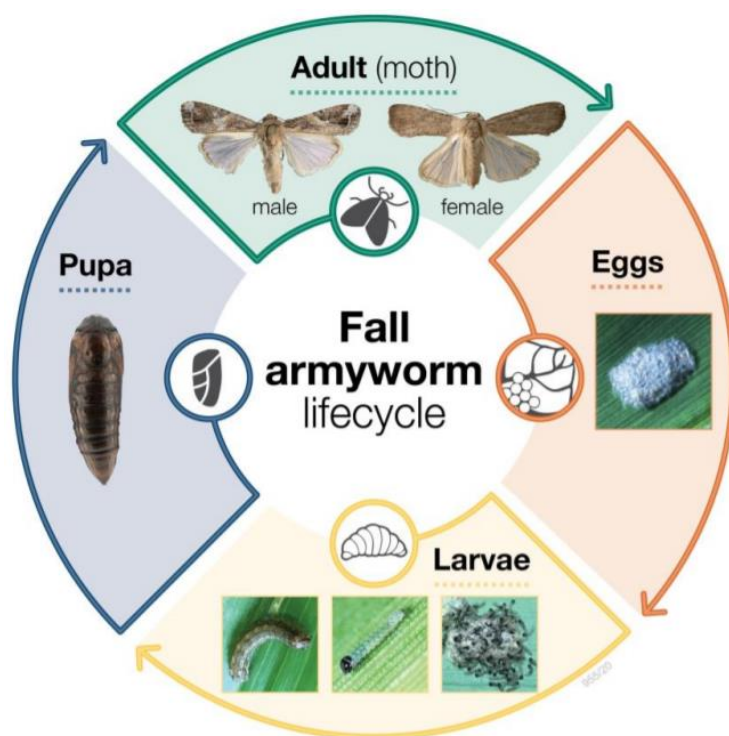
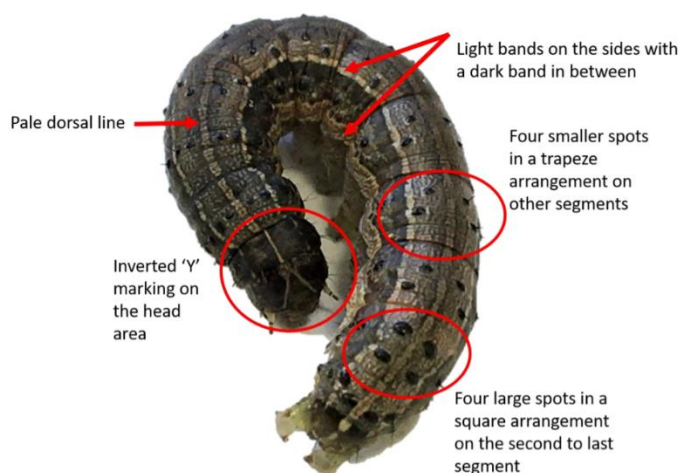
[DPIRD website](#)

[Fall armyworm larval identification guide](#)

[Identifying different armyworm species \(QLD poster resource\)](#)

[Plant Biosecurity Research Initiative podcast series](#)

Chemical control of fall armyworm is not recommended as the species is prone to chemical resistance; maintenance of natural predators and IPM programs is considered the best control option. Hort Innovation has secured emergency minor use permits for use on fall armyworm where required. See the [Hort Innovation website](#) for details.



Images top to bottom: All five identifying features on mid to late instar larvae (caterpillars) are used to make a positive identification (©2020 DPIRD); Fall armyworm lifecycle (©2020 DPIRD)

QFLY ERADICATED FROM DALKEITH

Queensland fruit fly (Qfly) has been successfully eradicated from the Perth western suburbs of Dalkeith and surrounds. This was the largest Qfly response since the 1980's and ran for 10 months, from March 2020 to February 2021.

QFLY INCIDENT IN COOLBELLUP IMPACTS FRUIT TRANSITING PERTH MARKETS

A Qfly detection in Coolbellup in early January, involving a single female fly carrying eggs, triggered a new Qfly response (not related to the Dalkeith response). A further detection of a male Qfly, found close to the original detection point in Coolbellup, was made on 26 February 2021.

No further detections have been made and no Qfly have been detected outside of the Quarantine Area; growing areas continue to be monitored with no detections found.

The Quarantine Area for the Coolbellup incident includes the Perth Markets and will impact fruit transiting the markets.

Everyone dealing with Qfly host produce at the Perth Markets in Canning Vale must comply with the conditions of the [Quarantine Area Notice](#).

One of the steps below must be followed to ensure Qfly host produce is kept free of fruit fly and can continue to be traded.

1. Use fly-proof packaging/covering: ensure all Qfly host produce is covered in fly-proof packaging or covers. This means there are no gaps greater than 1.6mm in the packaging/cover.

OR

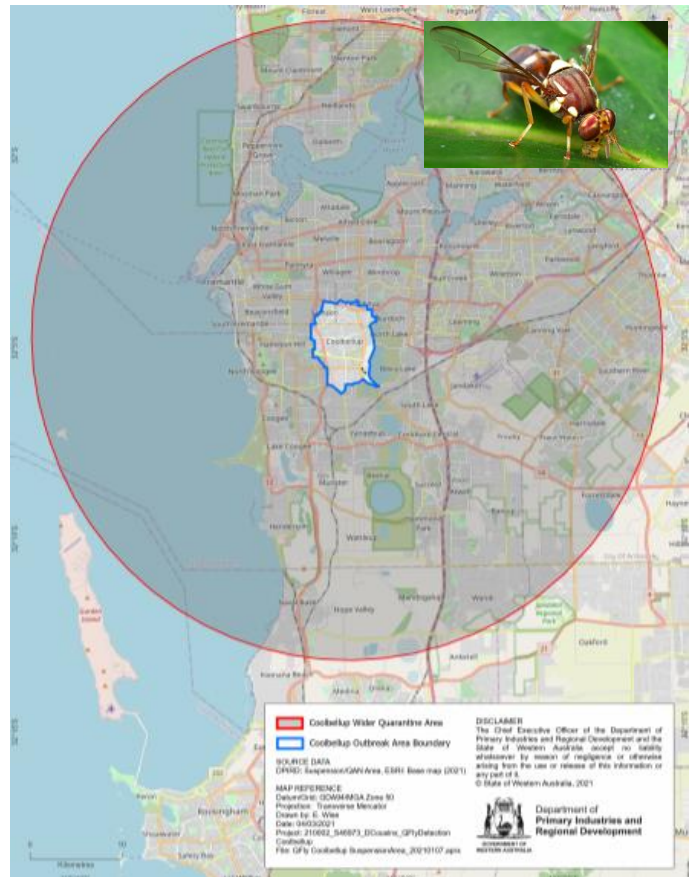
2. Keep host produce inside: remove all host produce from an open-air environment and keep it enclosed in screened buildings, cold rooms, vehicles or other facilities free from gaps or other entry points greater than 1.6 mm.

Fruit delivered to market in enclosed vehicles (e.g. tautliners and refrigerated trucks), and loaded directly into cool rooms on arrival, complies with these conditions and does not need fly-proof packaging/covering. Fruit moved from market cool rooms to buyers, may need fly-proof packaging/coverings.

Talk with your market agent before making changes to the way you package your fruit for market. Your current practices may already comply with the required conditions and/or your market agent may have something in place.

Restrictions at the Perth Markets will be lifted on the 18th of June 2021 if there are no further Qfly detections.

More information: [DPIRD Queensland fruit fly updates](#)



Images top to bottom: Qfly Quarantine Area; Enclosed vehicles that deliver fruit directly to a cool room at the markets are considered fruit fly proof; Example of a fly-proof covering used at the Perth Markets (courtesy DPIRD).

SERPENTINE LEAFMINER: WA IMPOSES ENTRY REQUIREMENTS ON PLANTS AND EQUIPMENT

New entry requirements into Western Australia to restrict movement of the exotic pest serpentine leafminer (*Liriomyza huidobrensis*) came into effect on 4 December 2020.

This follows the confirmed detection of serpentine leafminer on a number of commercial vegetable properties in QLD and NSW.

Serpentine leafminer flies, eggs, larvae and pupae can be spread through the movement of plant material, soil, clothing and equipment. Anyone wanting to move serpentine leafminer host material into WA must adhere to [import requirement C98](#); which applies to the entry of:

- host plants and parts of host plants of serpentine leafminer including green, leafy or legume vegetables, fresh herbs, fruit with attached green material, cut flowers and foliage, and nursery stock
- machinery and equipment used in association with soil or host plant material.

Strawberries, blueberries, and Rubus are not host plants.

Serpentine leaf miner is a tiny fly whose larvae (grubs) damage plants by tunnelling through the inside of leaves. It is a serious economic pest that attacks a wide range of crops and garden plants, including vegetables, melons, grains and many ornamental plants. ***It does not appear to attack berries***

Report suspected Serpentine leaf miner damage to DPIRD's Pest and Disease Information Service (PaDIS) by calling 9368 3080 or email padis@dpird.wa.gov.au or use the [MyPestGuide Reporter app](#).

More information: [Serpentine leaf miner: declared pest](#) ; [Hort Innovation funded resources](#)



Images top to bottom: Adult serpentine leafminer (Central Science Laboratory, Harpenden, British Crown, Bugwood.org); Leaf mines on tomato – note how the mines get wider at the larvae grow (©2021 DPIRD)

GREEN SNAIL BAITING AND INSPECTION SEASON IS NEARLY HERE

If you plan to **export strawberries to South Australia**, your property must have 'green snail property freedom' accreditation.

If you were part of the green snail program last season, you should have received a letter from Quarantine WA with an application form (Application for Accreditation Green Snail Property Freedom), last year's map for your property, and details on the baiting and inspection program required for accreditation.

If you are not currently part of the green snail accreditation program, contact Quarantine WA for details P: 9334 1800.

More information: [Green snail: declared pest](#)



Image: Common garden snail (left), green snail (middle), and white Italian snail (right) (©2021 DPIRD)

BLUEBERRY RUST: DECLARED PEST

Blueberry rust (*Thekopsora minima*) is a fungal disease that causes poor fruit production and reduced vigour in blueberry plants because of the loss of leaves. Serious defoliation can lead to the death of susceptible varieties. The disease has been detected in QLD, NSW, and VIC.

Blueberry rust spores are very easily and quickly transported by wind and can also be spread via infected plants and fruit, packaging, equipment, clothing and hands.

What to look for:

- The first symptoms of blueberry rust are small reddish spots on the upper surfaces of young leaves. These lesions darken with age and are often surrounded by a yellow halo.
- On the undersides of the leaves, yellow pustules develop. Each pustule releases thousands of yellow spores which can infect other leaves and spread the disease.
- In severe cases, leaves turn brown, curl up and drop.
- Disease pustules may also appear on developing fruit.

Report suspected Blueberry rust to DPIRD's Pest and Disease Information Service (PaDIS) by calling 9368 3080 or email padis@dpird.wa.gov.au or use the [MyPestGuide Reporter app](#).

More information: [Blueberry rust: declared pest](#)



Images top to bottom: Blueberry rust pustules on leaves (©2021 DPIRD); Rust spores on fruit (©2014 DAFWA)

FOUND A PEST AND DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS?

If you find any of the pests or diseases mentioned in this update, or something you are unsure about, report it to the Pest and Disease Information Service. This is a free service, and you will receive a timely response with identification information and management options.



Report your observations

MyPestGuide™ Reporter
via app or online mypestguide.agric.wa.gov.au

Pest and Disease Information Service
(08) 9368 3080
padis@dpird.wa.gov.au

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