

Important biosecurity information

Spot Baiting

14 MARCH 2018

Queensland fruit fly has been detected in Tasmania. Our fruit industry and the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE) need your help to eradicate this pest from Tasmania.

Why?

Eradication of Queensland fruit fly from Tasmania is very important. This insect can physically damage our fruit and some vegetables. It also has the potential to significantly restrict trade of fresh Tasmanian fruit into valuable markets in Australia and overseas. If left unchecked, the presence of fruit fly in Tasmania will have negative effects for our whole state economy.

What is spot baiting?

One method being used in this effort is spot baiting. The bait being used is Naturalure, which is a liquid blend of protein and sugar mixed with the active ingredient spinosad. This mixture attracts and kills fruit flies. It is important that these spot baits are placed throughout the area where fruit flies may be present, including in people's gardens. Naturalure is approved for use in organic orchards by BFA (Biological Farmers of Australia) and is certified for use in organic systems in many countries around the world.

What will happen?

With the consent of the resident, a DPIPWE officer or authorised contractor will arrive at the property with the liquid bait. The mixture will be applied to fruit trees and/or ornamental trees. This will take about five minutes.

How often will this happen?

Application of the bait spots will occur approximately weekly until DPIPWE is confident there are no fruit flies in the area.

If you are within 200 metres of an infected property spot baiting will occur twice weekly.

Is spot baiting safe?

Spot baiting is extremely safe when applied as directed. The Safety Data Sheet for Naturalure is available on request. The solution is applied according to the product label and APVMA permit 80719 by an accredited officer or contractor. Australia maintains a regime of registered agricultural and veterinary chemicals which are safe to use in accordance with the label conditions.

It will not be directly applied to any fruit or plants in flower. Spot baiting will not be applied to any surfaces used by your children or pets.

Will the spot bait harm my trees?

No. There is a very small chance some leaves might turn yellow. To avoid this, contractors will aim to apply the bait spots to different areas of the tree on each visit.

Why does spot baiting need to occur?

Queensland fruit fly does not normally occur in Tasmania. It damages our valuable fruit and vegetable industries, and impacts the productivity and enjoyment of home gardens. The aim is to eradicate it. A range of tools needs to be used to give the best chance of achieving eradication as soon as possible. Spot baiting is one of these tools.

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Will the spot baiting cost me anything?

No. The spot baiting is being funded by the State Government because of the importance of fruit and vegetables to our economy

Will the spot baits attract fruit flies to my garden?

The aim of the bait is to attract fruit flies but it is only effective at a relatively short distance. The bait contains insecticide so the flies are killed once they go to the bait.

Do I have to be present when the spot bait contractors comes to my property?

No. The contractor will only take about five minutes to apply the baits. There is nothing you can do to assist, other than allow the contractor to enter your garden.

Can I leave my dog, cats and pet birds outside when the spot baits are applied?

Yes. The baits will not be applied to any surface able to be touched by your dog or other domestic pets. However, for the safety of contractors, securing dogs would be appreciated. If you have pet rabbits, please be aware that fruit flies do not spread calicivirus.

Can I still eat fruit and vegetables grown in my garden?

Yes. Fruit and vegetables growing in your garden will not be treated with the spot bait. As always, washing this produce before you eat it is good practice.

Where can I get further information?

The Biosecurity Tasmania officer supervising spot baiting in your area is available to answer questions.

Alternatively you can contact **Biosecurity Tasmania** on **6165 3774** or visit www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/fruitfly for authoritative information on the pest and the response to it.