

# Important biosecurity information

## Fruit Fly detection traps

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.

### Why install fruit fly traps?

Fruit fly traps are used to detect the presence of the pest in a particular area. They are not a means of eradicating the fruit fly.

Tasmania maintains a permanent grid of approximately 1,000 traps throughout Tasmania. These are used to demonstrate pest freedom to our trading partners and to provide an early warning that a pest incursion has occurred.

Since the detection of Queensland fruit fly in Tasmania in mid-January, the permanent grid has been supplemented by more than 400 additional traps. These supplementary traps are concentrated generally around areas where the pest has been detected. Trapping is a very important element of the response.

### What is a fruit fly trap?

The most common variety is the Lynfield trap. It consists of a clear plastic container with a wick (cotton pad) suspended from wire inside. The wick is impregnated with a fruit fly attractant and a pesticide. Fruit flies are killed upon entering the trap.

The pesticide used for Queensland fruit fly is Maldison. The traps are labelled with information about what is in them. A Material Data Sheet about Maldison is available on request.

The pesticide contained within each wick is poisonous if it is swallowed and can cause irritation to the eyes if touched. Please do not handle the trap at all and if there is any issue, contact us or the **Poisons Information Centre** on **13 11 26**. They will also need to know the information that is contained on the label.



Above - Lynfield trap

### What if I have children or pets?

We will place the traps in areas out of reach of children and pets in normal circumstances. If your pets or children are likely to be curious and interfere with the trap, please advise us. Please discuss this with us at any time, if your situation changes or if you are concerned.

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### How do you know when the trap contains a pest fruit fly?

The traps are checked regularly by a DPIPWE officer or an authorised contractor. If the trap is on an infected property or within 200 metres of an infected property, the trap will be checked at least twice a week. If the trap is otherwise within 1.5km of an infected property, then it will be checked at least weekly.

Anything in the trap which resembles a pest fruit fly is submitted to DPIPWE for identification.

### If a trap on my property contains a pest fruit fly, does that mean my property is regarded as infected?

**No.** It just means that the pest has reached maturity somewhere within flying distance nearby.

However, we may need to visit your property to examine host fruit that may be present, such as fruit on trees or in your compost bin, to check for any evidence of fruit fly.

### If a trap on my property contains a pest fruit fly, will my property automatically have to undergo ground treatment?

**No.** Only properties where larvae have been found in fruit undergo ground treatment in order to kill any fly pupae that may be in the soil under fruit trees.

### If a trap on my property contains a pest fruit fly, will my property automatically have to undergo spot baiting?

Spot baiting is occurring on all properties with fruit trees within 1.5 km of infected properties. This will not be affected by any fly detections in traps.

### Will the traps attract and kill other insects, like bees or native insects?

The traps use an attractant that is highly specific to male fruit flies. It is very uncommon for other insects to be caught in the traps but the occasional deaths of non-target species that happen to enter the trap cannot be ruled out.

### Under what circumstances should DPIPWE be contacted once the trap is installed?

People with traps on their property should contact DPIPWE if he or she:

- Wants to have the trap re-located within the property
- Notices that the trap is damaged or missing
- Is moving house
- Wants the trap removed permanently from the property
- Changes access arrangements to the property (e.g. a gate is to be locked)
- Has any concerns or questions

### How do I contact DPIPWE?

Please call **Biosecurity Tasmania** on the 24-hour fruit fly reporting and information line: **6165 3774**.

For authoritative information on the detection of Queensland fruit fly in Tasmania and the response to it, please visit [www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/fruitfly](http://www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/fruitfly)