

Life cycle of Queensland fruit fly

Under ideal breeding conditions, the life cycle takes about 4 weeks, although it is more likely 6-12 weeks under Tasmanian conditions.

Fly numbers increase when:

- suitable hosts are available
- temperature and moisture conditions are favourable, e.g. moist and warm

Adult fruit fly

7-8mm long, reddish-brown with distinctive yellow patches



Female inserts her ovipositor into fruit to deposit eggs



Eggs

Less than 1mm long, white, laid in clumps of 6-12



Eggs hatch after 2-3 days

The spread of Queensland fruit fly in the egg or larva form is limited by the combination of:

- no movement of untreated host produce from properties in the Infected Area
- no movement of any host produce out of the Control Area
- treatments undertaken as part of the Queensland fruit fly response



Queensland fruit fly can be spread through movement of infested fruit.

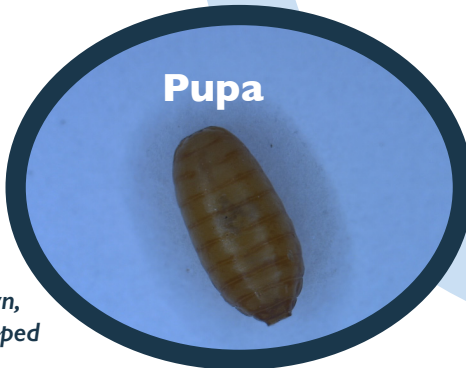
Larvae

Approx 8-11mm long when mature, pale yellow with dark mouth hooks, no legs



Pupa

4-5mm long, brown, barrel-shaped



After 2-6 weeks, a new adult emerges

After 2-6 weeks under Tasmanian conditions, larvae leave fruit and pupate in soil. Larvae may also pupate in soil free environments such as compost bins.