

Management of fruit flies in New South Wales

NUMBER	TI-O-150	VERSION	1
AUTHORISED BY	Executive Director, Biosecurity NSW	AUTHORISED DATE	22/08/2014
ISSUED BY	Plant Biosecurity & Product Integrity	EFFECTIVE DATE	22/08/2014

Policy Statement

Queensland fruit flies (QFF) pose a biosecurity threat to fruit production in New South Wales (NSW). The management of this pest and the related market access is a shared responsibility between growers, packers, local councils, industry groups, state governments and the federal government. This policy outlines the roles and responsibilities for each group in NSW. Legislation and associated regulations change over time; the current legal instruments are presented at the rear of this document.

Scope

This policy applies to growers, packers, local councils, industry groups, and governments in management of Queensland fruit flies in NSW so that its economic impact on production and market access is minimised.

Requirements

1. This statement of policy identifies the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders in the management of fruit flies in NSW as a shared responsibility.

Procedures

- There are no procedures for this policy document.

Roles and responsibilities

There is a range of roles in the management of Queensland fruit flies in NSW. These roles are briefly described below. The responsibility for those roles is defined and represented in Table 1 below.

1. *Role:* On-farm biosecurity

The role includes pest management, signage on farm boundaries, distribution of farm biosecurity requirements for visitors and workers and interaction with neighbours. This role is the responsibility of the land occupiers or producers.

2. *Role:* On-farm pest control

The role includes the choice of control techniques, selection of pesticides, treatment on-farm and possibly outside the perimeter (after consultation with appropriate land owners), funding all control measures and contact with neighbours. This role is the responsibility of land occupiers.

Information required to develop a pest management strategy may be sourced from state government or commercial organisations and is the responsibility of the land occupiers or producers.

3. *Role:* Backyard fruit fly management

The role includes fruit fly management and tree husbandry in urban backyards and home orchards on rural blocks or associated with commercial orchards. This is effectively the same as “on-farm biosecurity” for non-commercial fruit production. This role also is the responsibility of the land occupier. Decisions on management arrangements may be based on information sourced from a range of organisations. However the sourcing and use of that information is the responsibility of the land occupiers or producers.

4. *Role:* Community-based fruit fly management

Community groups may be formed to service the needs of urban and rural groups. These groups may be grower based or regionally based such as Local Land Services. These groups may provide

information or guidance to individual rural or urban land owners. This role is the primary responsibility of community groups, as is any obligation to follow guidance provided by a community group. Community guidance may be based on information sourced from any organisation including NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI). Sourcing that information is the responsibility of the community group.

5. *Role:* Production of commercially acceptable fruit

Fruit may be produced for a range of commercial outlets including juice fruit, local sale and interstate or export markets, collectively called market forces. While this choice may be influenced by the requirements of packers, interstate or export markets, the choice of market is the responsibility of fruit producers. The production of acceptable produce for any market is the responsibility of fruit producers and those marketing the produce. The management of on-farm biosecurity and on-farm pest control is the responsibility of the fruit producer.

6. *Role:* Legislation and policies where necessary

Legislation for a range of activities is the responsibility of state government. This legislation normally pertains to trade related matters, protecting the health status of host material grown in the State and the conditions required for product entering that market. Policies governing Queensland fruit fly management are the role of state government where QFF needs to be regulated, in consultation with stakeholders. Legislation should not be viewed as a management tool to force another individual or organisation to comply with community or producer priorities such as the removal of feral trees or the treatment of unmanaged urban fruit trees.

7. *Role:* Stakeholder awareness

It is the role of all stakeholders to create awareness of their needs and requirements. Considerable information on the biology and control of QFF is available from a wide range of government and commercial web sites.

- State government has a key role in creating regulatory awareness of the requirements for interstate trade.
- Community groups need to develop awareness mechanisms to inform their stakeholders of that community's needs.
- Growers need to create awareness mechanisms for visitors and farm workers of the biosecurity requirements for entry and conduct on the fruit production property.
- Urban gardens, botanic gardens and parks need to create awareness for visitors regarding what activities are permitted on these premises.

8. *Role:* Trapping of exotic fruit fly species

Many interstate and export markets require a demonstration that exotic fruit flies are absent from production areas supplying those markets. Setting the standards for surveillance (trap type, lure and trapping intensity) is the role of state and federal governments, based on phytosanitary requirements. The trapping and identification of trapped flies is the responsibility of the state government. However, processes could be identified to share this responsibility with affected stakeholders.

9. *Role:* Diagnostics

Diagnostics is the specific identification of trapped fruit flies. This is normally conducted in accredited laboratories and staff must be trained to standards required by the market being supplied. Diagnostics is a joint responsibility between producers, state government or third party providers, depending on the requirements of the market being supplied species in question. Coordination of diagnostics of suspect exotic species is the role of the Chief Plant Health Manager according to the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed.

10. *Role:* Domestic market access

The choice of which market to access is the responsibility of the producer but may be influenced by packers or wholesalers. Producers may supply produce to unregulated markets such as juice factories. Producers may wish to supply produce to regulated domestic or interstate markets and the supply of produce to these markets is the responsibility of producers. Many of these domestic and interstate markets require certain conditions to be met (such as pest freedom) or treatments to be applied. The setting of these standards is largely the responsibility of state governments in consultation with all stakeholders including producers. State government provides regulatory and certification services necessary to facilitate market access.

11. *Role:* export market access

The permitted conditions to access overseas markets are determined by the importing country. These conditions are usually conveyed to Australia via federal agencies. The federal government is therefore responsible for negotiating the conditions for export market access and conveying this information to all stakeholders. These conditions should be conveyed to producers and producer organisations where there is no commercial in confidence concerns. Some growers have negotiated directly with certain markets and these conditions are rarely conveyed to any other stakeholders.

12. *Role:* Fruit fly management training

The training of producers and their staff is the responsibility of the producer. The service may be provided by community groups, state government or third party providers.

Table 1. Representation of roles and responsibilities for the management of fruit flies in NSW.

Key to colours

	Means this group has primary responsibility
	Means a shared responsibility
	Means no responsibility

Role or Activity	Responsibility			
	Occupier (rural /urban)	Community or local council	State government	Federal government
1. On-farm biosecurity				
2. On-farm pest control				
3. Backyard management				
4. Community fly management				
5. Production of commercial fruit				
6. Legislation				
7. Stakeholder awareness				
8. Trapping of exotic flies			Greater Sunraysia (NSW Portion) Pest Free Area and Riverina production areas	
9. Diagnostics			Greater Sunraysia (NSW Portion) Pest Free Area and Riverina production areas	
10. Domestic market access				
11. Export market access				
12. Management training				

Delegations

- Nil.

Legislation

- *Plant Diseases Act 1924* No. 38
- Plant Diseases (Fruit Fly Management Areas) Notification 2013 under the *Plant Diseases Act 1924* (INT13/59143, issued 30 July 2013)
- Order O-426 – Plant Diseases (Mediterranean Fruit Fly) Order 2012 under the *Plant Diseases Act 1924* (Issued 9 November 2012)
- Order O-442 – Plant Diseases (NSW Greater Sunraysia Pest Free Area and Fruit Fly Outbreak and Suspension Areas) Order 2014 under the *Plant Diseases Act 1924* (INT14/21181, issued 14 February 2014)
- O-439 PER01 – Permit authorising the entry of potted plants bearing Queensland fruit fly host fruit into the NSW PFA (OUT13/19178, issued 30 July 2013)
- O-434 PER01 – Permit authorising the entry of Queensland Fruit Fly host fruit harvested and loaded in a Queensland Fruit Fly Outbreak or Suspension Zone within the Greater Sunraysia Pest Free Area (NSW and Victorian portion) into New South Wales without certification (OUT12/333407, issued 20 December 2012)
- Proclamation P80 – Proclamation to declare Queensland Fruit Fly to be a pest for the purposes of the *Plant Diseases Act 1924* (issued 5 February 1999).

Related policies

- There are no related policies.

Other related documents

- Primefact Number 1186 – Queensland Fruit Fly (third edition) (PUB12/50, issued April 2012).
- Primefact Number 1187 – Queensland Fruit Fly and the home gardener (second edition) (PUB12/51, issued April 2012).
- Primefact Number 1188 – Queensland Fruit Fly: control strategies for the home gardener (second edition) (issued April 2012).
- Primefact 752 – Managing Queensland Fruit Fly in citrus (second edition (INT12/31406), issued April 2012).
- QFF season calendar of backyard jobs.
- QFF backyard jobs for spring.
- QFF backyard jobs for summer.
- QFF backyard jobs for autumn.
- QFF backyard jobs for winter.

Definitions

- Occupier: is the person(s) who manages a particular property and is producing fruit on land they own or lease/rent from third parties. This definition applies to urban and rural occupiers. This also covers producers of commercial and non-commercial fruit.
- Riverina production area: means the portion of New South Wales described in section 4(a) to 4(f) of the Plant Disease (Fruit Fly Management Areas) Notification 2013 under the *Plant Diseases Act 1924*.
- Greater Sunraysia Pest Free Area (PFA): means the portion of New South Wales described in Schedule 1 – Greater Sunraysia (NSW Portion) Pest Free Area of Order O-439 Plant Diseases (NSW Greater Sunraysia Pest Free Area and Fruit Fly Outbreak and Suspension Areas) Order 2013 under the *Plant Diseases Act 1924*.
- Non production towns – means any town not included in the Riverina production area or the Greater Sunraysia Pest Free Area.

Superseded documents

- There are no superseded documents.

Revision history

Version	Date issued	Notes	By
1	22/08/2014	New Policy setting out the overall management of fruit flies in New South Wales.	Leader, Regional Pest Management

Review date

01/09/2017

Contact

Plant Biosecurity & Product Integrity – 02 6391 3703