



## Queensland fruit fly eradication program

### Information for local government

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) is responding to an outbreak of Queensland fruit fly (Qfly). An eradication response is underway and a Quarantine Area has been put in place, encompassing all or parts of Claremont, Dalkeith, Nedlands, Shenton Park, Crawley, Peppermint Grove, Cottesloe and Mount Claremont.

DPIRD is asking that your personnel are made aware of DPIRD's activities, and know how the Quarantine Area requirements will affect their operations.

### Quarantine Area requirements

- Under the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Regulations 2013, anyone within the Quarantine Area is required to comply with requirements detailed in the Quarantine Area Notice (available from the DPIRD website: [agric.wa.gov.au/qflyupdate](http://agric.wa.gov.au/qflyupdate)).
- This includes removing all ripening and ripe fruit from Qfly host plants and trees, and picking up all Qfly host fruit that has fallen to the ground **every three days**.
- Once Qfly host fruit has been removed, it must be **eaten** or **treated** by any of the following methods:
  - Cooking (eg. boiling or microwaving).
  - Freezing (minimum 24 hours).
  - Solarising in a sealed, heavy-duty black plastic bag by placing in direct sunlight on a hard surface (minimum seven days).
- Following treatment, fruit must be **bagged** and **binned** in general waste bins – NOT in green waste bins.
- **Unripe** host fruit can be kept on trees and plants, as long as fruit is removed once ripened.



## **DPIRD contact with owners/ occupiers**

- Information brochures are dropped to letterboxes in the Quarantine Area to inform owners/ occupiers of DPIRD activities. All DPIRD communications have our logo and contact details on them.
- DPIRD door knock to inspect for host fruit, and if necessary carry out eradication activities. DPIRD leave a red 'Contact card' in the letterboxes, asking owners/ occupiers to contact DPIRD if they are not home and access to their premises is required.
- DPIRD personnel carry ID, drive vehicles marked with 'DPIRD Qfly surveillance', and will not enter private premises without permission, except for door-knocking.
- DPIRD personnel never ask for cash payments or any payment for inspections.
- DPIRD personnel are following COVID-19 guidelines, including social distancing and hygiene requirements.

## **Quarantine Area information for field staff**

- Some native plants are hosts of Qfly. A list of host plants is available in the Quarantine Area Notice on the DPIRD website.
- Any pruned tree branches must be stripped of all host fruit before being disposed of.
- Host fruit must be treated (frozen, cooked or solarised) and bagged before disposal or removal from the Quarantine Area. Place all removed fruit into heavy duty black plastic bags, and seek advice from your waste services manager on arrangements made with DPIRD for the disposal of host fruit.
- Ripe and ripening host fruit must be removed from trees and plants **every three days**, and placed in heavy duty black plastic bags. Where feasible, try to strip host trees and plants on local government land of **ALL** fruit regardless of ripeness, to reduce the resources needed to meet this requirement.
- If trees are too tall to regularly remove host fruit, they should be pruned to an accessible height.
- Host fruit that has fallen to the ground on local government land must be picked up every three days. If there are small fruits such as lilly pillies, mulberries or olives, rake up as much as you can, including leaf litter from under trees and bushes, and seal in heavy duty black plastic bags.
- You may see lure traps in trees throughout the Quarantine Area, which contain both an attractant and an insecticide called Dichlorvos. These are used to monitor and kill Qfly. Refer to fact sheets on the DPIRD website on the two kinds of lure traps being used.
- You may also see Amulet® Cue-Lure fruit fly stations. These are small cardboard wafers, hung in shaded canopies, which are impregnated with an attractant called Cue-Lure and a small dose of fipronil, which kills Qfly on contact and ingestion.
- Please do not move any Qfly lure traps hung in street trees. The trap locations are mapped to allow DPIRD personnel to easily find and check traps.
- If you see any lure traps that have fallen to the ground, please collect and contact DPIRD's Pest and Disease Information Service on 9368 3080.

- DPIRD has in excess of 100 personnel carrying out on-ground activities in the Quarantine Area. This is mainly focused in the Operational Area closest to detection points but will be increasingly covering the whole of the QA.
- Operational activities include door knocking, installing and checking lure traps, deploying Amulet® Cue-Lure fruit fly stations, applying insecticide bait to host plants (on residential and public land), inspecting fruit for Qfly damage and collecting fruit to check for Qfly larvae.
- Bait is also being applied to ALL street trees within the Quarantine Area.
- You might see chemical caution signs on road verges. This is to comply with legislation and to indicate the use of Naturalure® for baiting (refer to fact sheet on the DPIRD website).
- Procedures have been developed for instances where owners/ occupiers refuse to allow DPIRD access to their premises for eradication activities (see information below).
- DPIRD may arrange for contactors to prune or remove trees if they are not accessible to regularly remove host fruit. Any removal of trees/ plants is discussed with the relevant owner/ occupier prior to work being carried out.
- Starting in September, DPIRD will be placing bin tags onto general waste bins and green waste bins to remind owners/ occupiers to not dispose of Qfly host fruit unless treated – and to not put ANY fruit in the green waste bins.

### **Pest Control Notices**

Owners/ occupiers who will not allow access to their premises for baiting and inspection, or are found to not be managing ripe and ripening fruit as specified in the Quarantine Area Notice, will be issued with a Pest Control Notice (PCN). The PCN will require that all fruit, regardless of ripeness, be removed from trees and plants on the premises. DPIRD personnel will then regularly visit to check for compliance with the PCN, and DPIRD will take remedial action if the host plants on premises remain unmanaged, or if premises access is not provided to determine if host plants are being managed.

### **What to report to DPIRD**

- The presence of white larvae (maggots) in fruit.
- Fruit on trees that looks damaged or has 'sting' marks.
- Owners/ occupiers disposing of fruit incorrectly e.g. disposing of green waste with host fruit still attached. Contact DPIRD even if you are unsure whether the fruit is a Qfly host.
- Branches laden with host fruit at waste facilities/ depots.
- Fallen fruit on private, commercial and public land that is not being regularly picked up.
- Host trees on residential land that are too large to remove fruit from, and do not seem to be managed by owners/ occupiers.
- If you need to prune branches that have traps hanging from them.
- Any enquiries that do not relate to the City/ Town's actions or involvement in the eradication program.

### **DPIRD contact details**

Pest and Disease Information Service – 9368 3080 or [padis@dpird.wa.gov.au](mailto:padis@dpird.wa.gov.au)

### **DPIRD Qfly website**

[agric.wa.gov.au/qflyupdate](http://agric.wa.gov.au/qflyupdate)