



QUEENSLAND FRUIT FLY

ERADICATION PROGRAM DALKEITH 2020

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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NOTE: References to 'fruit' below applies only to hosts of Queensland Fruit Fly (Qfly), which includes some fruiting vegetables such as tomato, chilli, eggplant and capsicum. The full host list is provided in the Quarantine Area Notice, which can be downloaded from our website: agric.wa.gov.au/qflyupdate

QUARANTINE AREA AND OUTBREAK ZONE

Are the Quarantine Area requirements legal requirements?

Yes. All requirements applying to the movement and disposal of Qfly host fruit are detailed in the *Quarantine Area Notice Revocation – Quarantine Area Notice – Claremont, Cottesloe, Crawley, Dalkeith, Mount Claremont, Nedlands, Peppermint Grove, Shenton Park and Swanbourne*. This Notice was issued under regulation 60 of the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Regulations 2013. Under these regulations, failure to comply with the Quarantine Area Notice could result in a fine, remedial action under section 133 of the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Regulations 2013, or both.

What is the difference between the Quarantine Area and the Outbreak Zone?

The Quarantine Area (QA) is based on a 1.5km radius from the first Qfly detection.

The Outbreak Zone is the area where Qfly have been detected. It is located within the larger Quarantine Area, so QA requirements also apply to the Outbreak Zone.

Additionally, eradication activities are carried out on properties in the Outbreak Zone, including:

- An initial visit from Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) personnel to check for the presence of Qfly host plants, apply insecticide bait to trees and install Qfly lure traps.
- Inspection of properties to ensure host fruit is being regularly removed and disposed of in accordance with the Quarantine Area Notice.
- Subsequent visits to inspect for Qfly larvae, and ongoing baiting and monitoring of traps.
- Baiting of street trees.
- Where required, stripping of all fruit from Qfly host plants.

How long will the Quarantine Area remain in place?

The Quarantine Area Notice (QAN) will be in effect from 10 July 2020 to 1 February 2021. The area will remain a Quarantine Area until no Qfly or Qfly larvae have been detected for at least 12 weeks. When this happens, we can declare eradication. You will be notified when the QAN is lifted.

MOVEMENT REQUIREMENTS

What do I need to do with host fruit?

Pick up fallen fruit or pick ripe and ripening fruit in your backyard every three days.

Either **eat or treat** it with one of the below options:

- 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).

Once treated, **bag and bin** in the general waste bin - NOT the green waste bin.

Can I take my host fruit outside the Quarantine Area?

No. Fresh host fruit MAY NOT be taken outside the Quarantine Area. Once removed from trees and plants, you may eat it, immediately refrigerate it until it can be consumed, cook it, freeze it (for a minimum of 24 hours) or destroy it through solarisation (minimum seven days).

Can I give my fruit and vegetables to my neighbour or anyone else in my suburb?

You may provide your fruit to anyone inside the Quarantine Area boundary but make sure that they know not to take the fruit out of the area, and that they know how to dispose of the fruit in accordance with the Quarantine Area Notice. If they plan to eat the fruit fresh at a later date, it must be refrigerated immediately.

You MAY NOT give your fruit to anyone who lives outside the Quarantine Area, or who plans on taking the fruit outside of the Quarantine Area.

If I refrigerate my fruit for 24 hours, can I move it out of the Quarantine Area?

No! Qfly host fruit can only be moved out of the Quarantine Area if it has been frozen for 24 hours, cooked (eg. boiling or microwaving) or solarised for at least seven days. You can keep fruit in the fridge as long as it is put in there immediately after picking, and as long as it is kept in there until you are ready to eat it.

Can I take my home-grown fruit to work or school to eat there?

If your work or school is outside of the Quarantine Area, you may not take your host fruit for lunch or morning tea. Even if the fruit does not look infested, it may contain newly laid eggs. The movement of infested fruit is the quickest and most common way to move Qfly around.

What if I have accidentally moved my fruit out of the Quarantine Area?

Let the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) know as soon as possible. If you know who the fruit was given to, please ensure they dispose of it as

per the Quarantine Area Notice requirements. If that person has already disposed of it, please let us know so we can assess the risk.

DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

Can I throw out shop bought fruit as normal, or put into my compost?

No. Do not place any untreated host fruit, both home-grown and shop bought, into your compost or green waste bin. Treat as per the Quarantine Area Notice, bag and then place in your **general waste** bin.

What should I do if I need to throw out host fruit or scraps that have been mixed in with store bought fruit?

All scraps from both home-grown and shop bought fruit must be disposed of as directed in the Quarantine Area Notice. Many residents are bagging the scraps and freezing them for 24 hours before disposing of them in the **general waste** bin.

If I take home-grown fruit into the Quarantine Area, that has been grown outside of the Quarantine Area, do the same disposal requirements apply?

Yes.

What do I do with fruit scraps?

Regulations on how to dispose of fruit also applies to scraps – that is, rinds, ends, cores, etc. We suggest to immediately freeze your scraps for 24 hours before throwing into your **general rubbish** bin.

What if I have excess fruit that I don't want to waste by throwing away?

There are a number of options to make the most of excess fruit, e.g. juicing, preserving, drying or freezing. If you have a large quantity of excess fruit, the easiest option is to seal the fruit in a heavy-duty black plastic bag, and then place the bag in direct sunlight on a hard surface for at least seven days. You can then throw the bag into your **general rubbish** bin.

If I juice my fruit, can I take it out of the Quarantine Area?

Yes. Juicing will destroy any Qfly eggs or larvae. Remember to dispose of the fruit scraps as directed in the Quarantine Area Notice.

Can I give host fruit to my chickens?

No. Qfly host fruit can NOT be given to chickens. Not even if it has been treated.

What is solarising?

Solarising is the process of using sunlight to heat something. Qfly hosts are solarised by sealing fruit in a heavy duty black plastic bag, and placing it in direct sunlight on a hard surface for at least seven days.

Mulberry, olive or fig trees - these trees drop a huge amount of small fruits, and it would be impossible to pick up every single one.

Rake up as much as you can, seal it in heavy duty black plastic bags and place on a hard surface in direct sunlight for at least seven days. Try to collect as much as is practicable. We recognise it is unlikely that you will be able to collect everything.

When raking, also make sure you rake the leaf litter from under bushes and trees, and then treat the litter as Qfly host fruit, disposing of it as instructed in the Quarantine Area Notice.

I may have raked up some fruit with my green waste which is now on the kerb waiting for pickup/ or in my green waste bin. What shall I do?

If you believe the green waste has Qfly host fruit in it, then please pick through the waste and remove the fruit, or treat the whole amount as host fruit and dispose of it as directed under the Quarantine Area Notice. In this instance, solarisation is the most practical option.

Contact our Pest and Disease Information Service if meeting these requirements are difficult for you to implement. Our operations personnel may need to visit and inspect your green waste. We are monitoring green waste disposal points for Qfly, in the event that fruit mixed with green waste is taken out of the Quarantine Area. However, preventing the movement of possibly contaminated green waste is the best option to prevent Qfly spread.

What if I have already thrown out fruit because I was not aware of the requirements?

We appreciate this may happen and we are monitoring green waste disposal points for Qfly. Please ensure that all future Qfly host fruit is disposed of as instructed in the Quarantine Area Notice.

I have lots of fruit that I buried before the outbreak. Will this cause a problem?

You can leave the fruit buried. If Qfly emerge from the soil, your compliance with Quarantine Area Notice requirements, and agreement to have your property baited by our operations personnel once a week will ensure their eradication from your property. In the future, please do not bury your fruit.

How long can I keep unripe fruit on trees or plants?

Unless you have been given a Pest Control Notice directing you to strip all fruit from your premises, unripe fruit can be left on trees until it starts to ripen. Once it begins to ripen, it should be removed, eaten or treated, bagged and put into the general waste bin.

DPIRD operational inspectors will look at your fruit when visiting your property, and can provide advice whether or not it needs to be removed. There is no perfect rule that can be used for all fruit, in all situations, so please respect that our inspectors have final determination on whether the fruit should be removed.

My tree is too tall to remove the ripe or ripening fruit. What should I do?

If you are unable to comply with the Quarantine Area Notice requirements, please contact DPIRD. Our operations personnel will visit to discuss options available.

My neighbour's fruit has fallen onto my property. Am I responsible for its disposal?

If you do not want to manage the fruit, then you will need to cut the branches back to the boundary line and strip and dispose of all fruit from the branches in accordance with Quarantine Area requirements. If you need more information around responsibilities for overhanging branches, the Legal Aid WA website has information on ['Dividing fences and other boundary issues'](#).

If you enjoy getting the fruit from an overhanging tree and it is reasonably accessible, it is your responsibility to manage it by ensuring all ripening and ripe fruit is removed from the tree.

If the branches are too tall to access (e.g. large fig, mulberry, olive, lilly pilly), you can discuss this with your neighbour or with our visiting DPIRD operational personnel to find a solution.

ERADICATION PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

How often will you bait my property?

DPIRD operational personnel will aim to set up a scheduled series of visits at times that are suitable to you. Baiting will be carried out twice weekly for the first few weeks, and weekly thereafter. You will be notified when baiting is due to end.

Baiting operations will be suspended during bad weather, as freshly applied bait is water soluble and washes away in the rain.

Why has DPIRD not visited my property yet?

DPIRD only needs to visit your property if you are in the Outbreak Zone (an area within 200m of a Qfly detection which sits inside the larger Quarantine Area). If you have received a red contact card in your mailbox asking you to get in touch with DPIRD, then you are in the Outbreak Zone.

Some 95% of all properties within the Outbreak Zone have been visited. If you have not been visited, it may be because the Outbreak Zone boundary has recently expanded to include your property, and we have not yet made contact.

There are close to 5000 properties within the Outbreak Zone, and this number may grow following a new detection. DPIRD appreciates your patience as we increase our personnel to schedule property visits and ensure that all properties are visited for surveillance and baiting, but feel free to call DPIRD to expedite activities on your property.

Because the Outbreak Zone changes regularly current maps are not made available.

I reported a few weeks ago that my neighbour has fruit trees, but they have not been visited by DPIRD. I have already had my trees baited, and do not want their property to infest mine.

DPIRD is prioritising visits based on the host plants present and property access requirements. This means that not all properties in a street will be visited at the same time.

There are close to 5000 properties in the Outbreak Zone, so DPIRD has a huge amount of ongoing work. Thank you for your patience as DPIRD works with you and your neighbours. While you are waiting, talk with your neighbours about removing their ripe and ripening fruit every three days to prevent Qfly breeding.

Please contact DPIRD again so we can pass your neighbour's details onto our operations team, who will assess whether they need to visit the property as a priority. If your neighbour is not regularly removing fruit they may be in breach of the Quarantine Area Notice requirements.

Is the insecticide bait being applied to trees safe?

DPIRD is using an organic insecticide bait called Naturalure®, which contains spinosad - a naturally derived toxin for fruit flies, produced as a fermentation by-product from a soil bacterium, *Saccharopolyspora spinosa*. Spinosad is low in toxicity to people and other mammals, making it low risk to users and most non-target organisms.

A small amount is applied to the trunk or foliage of Qfly host trees or shade trees (where no host trees are present) as a spot, and Qfly die on ingestion. Unfortunately, any insecticide will pose a risk to native and beneficial insects, so we try to minimise this impact by applying the bait to tree trunks in large droplets rather than as a mist spray. This reduces risk of overspray onto fruit, flowers and other plants, or the risk of airborne dispersal.

For more information on Naturalure®, check out the [factsheet](#).

Why are there different types of traps being used?

One type of trap (Lynfield lure trap - white lid) is easier to use for monitoring Qfly numbers, so DPIRD can determine any spread and know if the eradication activities are working. This trap only attracts male Qfly.

A second type of trap (Bio lure trap - yellow base) also attracts females, and can be used to suppress Qfly when numbers are high, to complement other control measures or as an alternative when baiting cannot be used or cannot be undertaken regularly.

The third type of trap is the Amulet® Cue-Lure fruit fly station. These stations are cardboard wafers that are hung in trees to attract and kill male Qfly – they are also known as 'Male Annihilation Technique' (MAT) devices. These devices are impregnated with a parapheromone (Cue-Lure) that attract male Qfly, and a minute amount of a common insecticide (fipronil) that kill Qfly on contact and ingestion. Fipronil is commonly used in pet flea treatments, and poses no health threat to humans, pets or other animals (mammals), and are placed high in trees out of reach of young children and pets. Although please note fipronil is toxic to fish. The added benefit of using fipronil is that it is slow acting (one to four

hours before death), and in that time males can transfer lethal quantities of the insecticide to female Qfly they come into contact with.

For more information on the traps we are using, check out the Qfly trap [fact sheet](#) and amulet [fact sheet](#).

If I notice what looks like fruit fly sting marks or larvae (maggots) in my fruit, do I need to report it to DPIRD?

Yes, although it would be better if you submitted a sample, as the marks to the outside of the fruit as well as the larvae themselves, and the damage they cause is almost identical and indistinguishable to that of Mediterranean fruit fly, which is common and widespread throughout metropolitan Perth. Larvae can only be identified as Qfly through DNA testing.

Adult Qfly can be easily identified by our DPIRD specialists, so we encourage photos or samples of anything that resembles Qfly to be reported for identification. Report it using the MyPestGuide™ Reporter App or website (mypestguide.agric.wa.gov.au) or to our Pest and Disease Information Service on (08) 9368 3080 or padis@dpiird.wa.gov.au

How long do Qfly live for?

The full life cycle varies between 52 and 100 days in winter, and between 36 and 60 days in summer. As adults, Qfly live for six to eight weeks during winter. Lower temperatures and less hours of daylight lengthen the time taken to complete a full life cycle.

After adult Qfly mate, the female lays eggs in suitable host fruit. After the eggs hatch, the larvae feed on the fruit, and once fully-grown chew their way out of the fruit and drop to the soil, burrowing into the soil to pupate. When adult Qfly emerge from the soil, they take harbour in foliage while they feed on available protein sources and prepare to mate.

What if I want more information?

Contact our Pest and Disease Information Service on **9368 3080** or padis@dprid.wa.gov.au, or visit our website: agric.wa.gov.au/qflyupdate

Remember: Pick it and eat it, or treat it, bag it and bin it!