

Fruit Flies Stakeholder Update #2

21st February 2019

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New information is highlighted in red.

Current situation: Fruit flies – Auckland and North Shore

Single male fruit flies have been found in surveillance traps in Devonport, Northcote, and Ōtara. Find out more about these flies and what we're doing.

Biosecurity New Zealand is investigating finds of single male Queensland fruit flies (QFF) in surveillance traps in the Auckland suburbs of Devonport and Northcote.

The flies were collected from fruit fly traps and formally identified on the afternoon of 14 February (Devonport) and 20 February (Northcote). A Controlled Area Notice (CAN) has been issued for both suburbs. The Queensland fruit fly has been detected before in the upper North Island in the past decade. Biosecurity New Zealand's staff are well practised in dealing with this situation. Since the fruit fly was found, we've been working to locate any other possible fruit flies.

Biosecurity New Zealand is also investigating the discovery of another type of fruit fly in a different Auckland suburb. On 19 February 2019, we found a single male *Bactrocera facialis* fruit fly (Facialis fruit fly, FFF) in a surveillance trap in Ōtara, Auckland.

To manage the fruit fly that has been found, an area of Ōtara has been put under a CAN. This was effective from 19 February 2019. This restricts the movement of certain fruits and vegetables out of the Controlled Area to help prevent the spread of any fruit flies if there are more than one.

You can download the CANs for Devonport, Northcote and Ōtara from the MPI website:
<https://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/protection-and-response/responding/alerts/fruit-flies/>

If there are no further detections, the operation in each area is expected to last 2 to 3 weeks.

Background

Queensland fruit flies spoil many horticultural crops, often making them inedible. They have been detected in New Zealand several times previously. A population was eradicated from Auckland in December 2015.

Facialis fruit flies are known to badly affects crops of capsicum and chilli but appear to be less harmful to other fruit and vegetables. It is a tropical fruit fly species, so New Zealand's climate may not provide an ideal home for it.

All fruit flies are difficult to catch at the border because they can arrive as eggs or tiny larvae concealed inside fruit.

Biosecurity New Zealand is the lead agency managing this response, in partnership with horticulture sector groups representing the kiwifruit, pipfruit, avocado, tomato, citrus, summerfruit and vegetable sectors.

For more information please refer to MPI's website <https://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/protection-and-response/responding/alerts/fruit-flies/>.

What's happening?

QFF in Devonport:

The response continues and no new QFF have been found to date. **As of 1400 hours on 21 February, 90 traps have been deployed in the A Zone and 80 traps have been deployed in the B Zone.** Trap establishment is now complete. The A Zone traps will be inspected daily and the B Zone traps will be inspected every three days.

Risk businesses (**87 identified as at 1400 hours 21 February**) will have a presence of uniformed officers and field teams, and Liaison teams have been deployed to risk sites and Devonport Primary School.

Bin distribution is now complete with 144 bins between the A and B Zones. The first fruit monitoring collection started on 19 February in the A Zone, and 9.94kg of fruit was received by the FHQ laboratory on the evening of 19 February to be processed 20 February.

QFF in Northcote:

Field teams are expanding the network of fruit fly traps in the area. If fruit flies are present, these traps will catch them. Traps will be placed in home gardens where fruit fly host plants (for example fruit trees) are found. These will be installed in the priority part of the suburb which is within 200m of where the fruit fly was trapped (this is known as the A Zone). Further traps will be added to a wider area extending out to 1.5 km from where the fly was found. **As of 1400 hours on 21 February, 124 traps have been deployed in the A Zone.**

In addition, staff are visiting homes in the A Zone, checking for fruit trees, vegetable gardens and compost facilities that could provide suitable habitat for fruit flies. Fruit and vegetable samples will be taken from home gardens to check for fruit fly contamination.

Field workers are out in force talking to local residents, providing information about the controls and how they can support the response.

FFF in Ōtara:

Field crews are busy setting up a field headquarters and placing traps. **As of 1400 hours on 21 February, 47 traps have been deployed in the A Zone.** Bin distribution is underway with 177 bins across the A and B Zones. Work will continue in the next couple of days installing bins, road signs and distributing other information materials to the public.

Movement controls on fruit and vegetables

The restrictions on moving fruit and vegetables in Devonport, Ōtara, and Northcote are:

If you live in **Zone A** (refer to the Controlled Area Notice map) –

- NO whole fruit or vegetables (except leafy and root vegetables like lettuce, cabbage, bok choy, rhubarb, broccoli, brussel sprouts, carrots, parsnips, potatoes, kumara, celery, onions, spring onions) can be taken out of Zone A. In addition, no fruit or vegetable waste (i.e. fruit skins and cores/stones, peelings etc.) or garden waste (i.e. prunings from fruit trees or vegetable garden cuttings) can go out of the area. It should either be disposed of in a home in-sink disposal unit or put into specially supplied Biosecurity New Zealand bins.

If you live in **Zone B** (refer to the Controlled Area Notice map) –

- You must not move home-grown fruit and vegetables out of the Controlled Area. In other words produce grown inside the Controlled Area cannot be moved out of it. You are free to move

commercially-purchased fruit and vegetables (i.e. fruit and vegetables brought at the supermarket) out of the area. Home grown produce waste and garden waste needs to be disposed of in Biosecurity New Zealand bins.

What you can do

If you find larvae inside fruit, or believe you have seen a fruit fly, call **0800 80 99 66**.

If you live around Devonport, Ōtara, or Northcote: find out if you're in the Controlled Area. If so, you will need to follow legal restrictions around movement of fruit and vegetables. Remember – **if in doubt, don't take it out**.

Welfare support available

The impact of the Queensland Fruit Fly response may stress both you and your business. If you need more support, the following groups can help:

- [Rural Support Trust](#)
- Healthline: [0800 611 116](tel:0800611116)
- Lifeline: 0800 111 757
- Depression.org.nz or Depression Helpline: 0800 611 116
- Alcohol Drug helpline: 0800 787 797 or text 8691
- Your GP or Practice Nurse
- [New National helpline service 1737 need to talk?](#) : Call or text 1737 to contact an intervention Counsellor. 24/7 service, free, confidential, and anonymous if required.

Compensation

Anyone affected by the issuing of the Controlled Area Notice (CAN) is entitled to apply for compensation for losses incurred as a direct result of the imposition of these legal powers.

The process for applying for compensation will be advised in due course.