

Fruit Flies Stakeholder Update #4

26 February 2019

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New information is highlighted in red.

Background

- Three [single male Queensland fruit flies](#) have been found in separate surveillance traps in the Auckland North Shore suburbs of Devonport (1) and Northcote (2). There is no evidence of a breeding population.
- 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.
- Two [single male Facialis fruit flies](#) have been found in separate surveillance traps in Ōtara, both within the current control Zone A.
- A biosecurity response was initiated in response to these detections and a significant trapping programme is now in operation
- To manage the fruit flies that have been found, Controlled Area Notices (CAN) has been issued for all three suburbs. This restricts the movement of certain fruit and vegetables out of the Controlled Area to help prevent the spread of any fruit flies if any are present.
- Find out about the Controlled Area and movement controls. You can [download the CANs](#) for Devonport, Northcote and Ōtara from the MPI website.
- If there are no further detections, the operations in each area are expected to end 14 days after the last detection.
- 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/>

Current situation

Yesterday [Biosecurity New Zealand announced](#) that a second Queensland fruit fly has been found in a surveillance trap in the Auckland suburb of Northcote.

The detection was in what is known as Zone A in Northcote and was 113 metres from the original detection there.

All traps on the North Shore have been checked. Those traps in Zone A are checked daily for the first 7 days after the find.

This latest detection is further evidence that our surveillance programme is working and it is pleasing we still have no indication of an established breeding population. Our trapping and surveillance has been enhanced and this programme will find any further flies in the area.

In addition to the trapping, Biosecurity New Zealand staff are collecting fruit from backyards in Zone A and checking this for larvae. More than 300 kilograms of fruit has been inspected in our mobile laboratory with no detections to date.

As the movement of fruit and vegetables from Zones A and B is restricted, staff and contractors are continuing to collect disposal bins for processing. Nearly three tonnes of fruit and vegetable waste has been collected from the three suburbs affected. This is the normal amount of fruit and vegetable waste in these areas. Instead of putting waste in rubbish bins to be disposed of normally, the waste is being put into the special response bins for Biosecurity New Zealand to dispose of securely.

At the weekend, Biosecurity had a strong presence at the Otara Market, supported by community leaders, educating the public about the facialis fruit fly found in the suburb. The response and support from the public there was amazing, as it has been in Devonport and Northcote too. This is critical as we need the whole community to pull together on this type of biosecurity response.

Rob Delane, the independent reviewer engaged to head an assurance review of the air passenger, cruise and mail pathways commenced his work today.

Numbers at a glance

FRUIT FLIES FOUND

QFF: 3

Facialis: 2

TRAPS - 548 total

BINS – 422 total

FRUIT COLLECTED – 2,757 kg

Note: This is the normal amount of fruit waste in these areas. Instead of putting waste in rubbish bins to be disposed of normally, the waste is being put into the special response bins for Biosecurity NZ to dispose of securely.

STAFF

140 biosecurity staff and contractors and industry partners

About fruit flies

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.

The fruit fly response at a glance

Queensland Fruit Fly - Devonport

Fruit flies found: 1 QFF

Traps – 173 total

Zone A – 93

Zone B – 80

Bins – 141 total

Zone A – 113

Zone B – 28

- Fruit fly traps in Zone A are being inspected every three days, and those in Zone B are being inspected every seven days.
- All traps are now in place in Devonport, no further traps will be laid, but that will be reviewed if further QFF are detected.
- Bin distribution is now complete. Collected fruit is being taken to Biosecurity New Zealand's field laboratory.

Queensland Fruit Fly – Northcote

Fruit flies found: 2 QFF

Traps – 154 total

Zone A – 94

Zone B – 60

Bins – 120 total

Zone A – 120

Zone B – 0

- Additional traps continue to be deployed across both zones.
- Fruit fly traps in Zone A are being inspected daily, and those in Zone B are being inspected every three days. If fruit flies are present, these traps will catch them.

- Traps are placed in home gardens where fruit fly host plants (for example fruit trees) are found.
- All Queensland fruit fly traps on the North Shore have been checked at least once.
- Staff are visiting homes in Zone A, 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.

Facialis fruit fly – Ōtara

Fruit flies found: 2 Facialis

Traps – 221 total

Zone A – 96

Zone B – 125

Bins – 161 total

Zone A – 128

Zone B – 33

- A second single male Facialis fruit fly was found on February 21, 70 metres from the first detection.
- Field crews have set up a field headquarters and are placing traps.
- Additional traps will continue to be deployed into the zones over the next few days.
- Bin distribution is underway across Zones A and B. The bins are provided so local people can safely dispose of fruit and vegetable waste.
- Leaflets have been translated into a number of languages including Samoan, Tongan, Chinese, Cook Island Maori, Fijian and Hindi and are now being shared amongst the local community.
- Biosecurity New Zealand representatives attended a meeting with local community and church leaders to update them on the situation.
- Over the weekend, field teams were at the Ōtara market talking to residents. It is important to note, the market is outside the controlled area so people can continue to buy fruit and vegetables from the market as usual.

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 fruit and vegetables 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 fruit and vegetables 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](http://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.

For more information about compensation under the Biosecurity Act visit the MPI website:
<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/law-and-policy/legal-overviews/biosecurity/biosecurity-act-compensation/>