

Fruit Flies Stakeholder Update #5

1 March 2019

In this update you will find:

- Background
- Current situation
- Numbers at a glance
- About fruit flies
- The response at a glance
 - Queensland Fruit Fly – Devonport
 - Queensland Fruit Fly – Northcote
 - Facialis fruit fly – Ōtara
- Movement controls on fruit and vegetables
- What you can do
- Welfare support links
- Compensation

New information is highlighted in red.

Background

- [Single male Queensland fruit flies](#) have been found in separate surveillance traps in the Auckland North Shore suburbs of Devonport and Northcote. There is no evidence of a breeding population in any of these locations.
- 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.
- 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 new CANs in place for Northcote, and those still in place for Devonport and Ōtara (facialis fruit fly) from our website: <https://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/protection-and-response/responding/alerts/fruit-flies/>**

Current situation (see copy of press release below)

Further biosecurity restrictions on the movement of fruit and vegetables in the Auckland suburb of Northcote are being put in place, following the find of a third Queensland fruit fly in the area.

The male fly was found in a surveillance trap just outside the A Zone controlled area but within Zone B and was around 270 metres away from the last detection in Northcote.

“While it is disappointing that we’ve found another fly, the detection is showing the effectiveness of our surveillance programme.

“Importantly, we still have no evidence of an established breeding population.”

All 5243 fruit fly traps in the greater Auckland area have now been checked. That includes 629 traps combined in the three controlled areas, which are being checked every day or every third day depending on the controlled area they are in.

Managing fruit and vegetable waste has also been a priority. As of 28th February, Biosecurity New Zealand has also disposed of over five tonne of waste that communities in the controlled zones have put in the disposal bins.

The detection means the restrictions on movement of fruit and vegetables in Zone A in Northcote, the 200m radius area around the original detection, will be extended towards the south east to take account of the latest find. A detailed map of the controlled area and a full description of the new boundaries and movement controls is at biosecurity.govt.nz/fruitfly.

“In addition to that, we are taking further measures to ensure we are doing everything we can sensibly do to find any other fruit flies in the area,” says Dr Duthie.

“Because of the new find in Northcote, we will take the precautionary approach of continuing the response in Devonport for another week rather than closing it at the weekend, which would be standard practice after no new finds in the suburb for a fortnight.”

“We are very grateful for the support all communities affected by the fruit fly detections have given us. We are sure the people of Devonport will continue to support our work for another week.”

In addition, Biosecurity New Zealand will be establishing further enhanced fruit fly trapping between the Devonport and Northcote detections as a precautionary measure.

“However, there will be no restrictions on the movement of fruit in these areas. This in-fill trapping is purely precautionary.”

Biosecurity New Zealand is also working with industry partners to put in place appropriate controls on the movement of fruit destined for export through or near Northcote.

“This measure is designed to strengthen trading partner confidence in our response, and that we are managing any risk to them.”

The measures mean any fruit or vegetables that can host Queensland fruit fly, and which is destined for export, cannot come within a 3.2 kilometre radius of the Northcote detections, unless it is suitably pest-proofed – for example by shrink-wrapping pallets.

“This would affect, for example, any fruit moving south over the harbour bridge,” says Dr Duthie.

“However, we expect the volume of fruit impacted by this to be very small at this time of the year. In addition, exporters can avoid these restrictions entirely by trucking produce along the more western routes 18 and 16.”

Biosecurity New Zealand has also put in place additional measures at the border to increase vigilance for the remainder of the Queensland fruit fly high risk season, which is due to end at the end of April, and will be reviewed at that time. These include additional x-ray screening and baggage searches of arriving air passengers and further checks of cruise ships at regional ports after intensive inspections at the first port of arrival.

Meanwhile, Rob Delane, who is undertaking the independent assurance review of the air passenger, cruise and mail pathways has completed the first week of his review.

There are no further detections of the *facialis* fruit fly in Otago.

Numbers at a glance

FRUIT FLIES FOUND

QFF: 4

Facialis: 2

TRAPS - 634 total

BINS – 615 total

FRUIT COLLECTED – 6017 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 affect 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 – 170 total

Zone A – 93

Zone B – 77

Bins – 168 total

Zone A – 118

Zone B – 50

- Fruit fly traps in Zone A are being inspected every three days, and those in Zone B are being inspected every seven days.

Queensland Fruit Fly – Northcote

Fruit flies found: 3 QFF

Traps – 224 total

Zone A – 98

Zone B – 102

Bins – 165 total

Zone A – 120

Zone B – 45

- 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 – 240 total

Zone A – 98

Zone B – 129

Bins – 282 total

Zone A – 131

Zone B – 151

- 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.

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 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/>