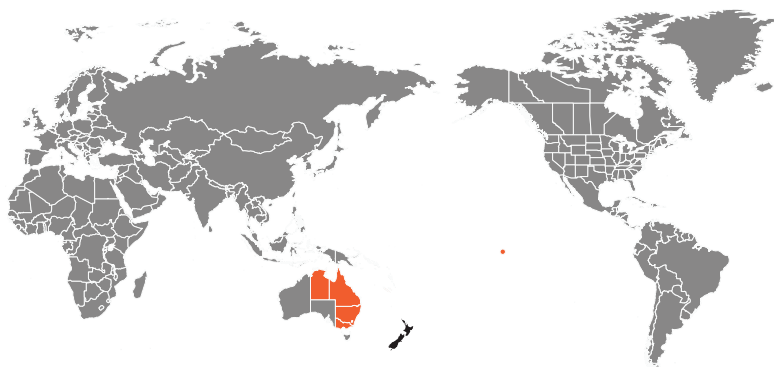


Queensland fruit fly *Bactrocera tryoni*

What is it? Queensland fruit fly is the most costly horticultural pest in Australia and it has invaded other countries in the surrounding region. Queensland fruit fly destroys a wide variety of fruit crops due to their habit of laying eggs inside maturing and ripe fruit. It affects all summerfruit crops – apricot, cherry, nectarine, peach and plum.

Distribution. It is native to Australia and is currently present in New South Wales, Northern Territory, Queensland and Victoria. Outside Australia it is present in New Caledonia and French Polynesia.

For current distribution go to <https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/DACUTR/distribution>



Morphology. The eggs are white in colour and banana-shaped, they are laid in host fruit and are unlikely to be seen because they are too small. The larvae are creamy, legless and reach 9mm in length. The pupae are oval, brown, hard and develop in the soil. Adults are wasp-like, reddish-brown in colour with distinctive yellow markings and about 7mm long.

Biology. Eggs are laid below the skin of the host fruit. These hatch within 2-3 days and the larvae feed for another 10-31 days. Pupation occurs in the soil under the host plant for about 7 days but may be delayed under cool conditions. Adults occur throughout the year in 4-5 overlapping generations and overwinter as adults. Up to 70 individuals have been recorded as developing from a single infested fruit.

Dispersal. Adult flight and the transport of infested fruit are the major means of movement and dispersal of this pest to previously uninfected areas. Many of these *Bactrocera* species can fly long distances.

Symptoms. The main damage is caused by the larvae when feeding inside the fruit. However, stinging sites where the eggs have been laid also provide entry points for secondary infections and pulp decay around the wounds. When larvae hatch the fruit is usually ruined within days by their feeding and subsequent rotting. Damage levels can be anything up to 100% of unprotected fruit. In Australia, potential losses if fruit flies were not controlled, have been estimated at A\$100 million a year and most of this would be attributable to Queensland fruit fly.

Preventative measures:

- Become familiar with Queensland fruit fly in all its different life stages.
- Look for any ripe fruit showing puncture marks and associated rots. Suspect fruit must be cut open and checked for maggots.
- Monitoring is largely carried out by lure traps set in areas where hosts are present.
- If you believe you have found Queensland fruit fly in your orchard, call MPI's pest and disease hotline on 0800 80 99 66 or contact Summerfruit NZ.

Source: CABI

Photo – G.T. O'Loughlin, Department of Agriculture, Bugwood.org



23mm



9mm



7mm

Familiarise yourself with the common pests and diseases in your orchard so you can distinguish them from the attack of exotic organisms.



Photo – G.T. O'Loughlin, Department of Agriculture, Bugwood.org

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To report any suspected exotic organism, call MPI on:

0800 80 99 66