



The Place To Be

Media release

From the Department of Primary Industries

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QUEENSLAND FRUIT FLY OUTBREAKS DETECTED

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) has announced that outbreaks of Queensland fruit fly have been detected at Gormandale, Langsborough and Calulu in Victoria's south east.

DPI Senior Regional Plant Standards Officer, Lavinia Zirnsak, said an eradication program has started within a 1.5 kilometre radius around the detection sites.

"These locations are within an area that is fruit fly free, so it is critical the pest is controlled to prevent it from spreading and impacting on the horticultural industry in the region," Ms Zirnsak said.

Ms Zirnsak said that this season small outbreaks of fruit fly have been detected in Paynesville, Eagle Point, Sale and Bairnsdale.

"All these sites are adjacent to a permanently proclaimed fruit fly infested zone in East Gippsland. However, quick action and cooperation from residents has ensured previous outbreaks have been contained," she said.

A 15-kilometre suspension zone will be declared for movement of host fruit to Melbourne and sensitive interstate markets including South Australia and Western Australia. Host fruit for these fruit fly sensitive markets must be treated prior to movement from the suspension zone.

DPI baiting teams will visit residential properties within the outbreak zone to apply bait into the canopy of suitable trees to attract and kill fruit flies.

A leaflet describing the eradication campaign will be delivered to households in the immediate area. The baiting teams will need to visit property yards twice a week for a period of up to 12 weeks.

The bait will not harm people, pets or plants. Householders can help by providing easy access to their backyards and by not removing any home grown fruit from their property unless it is treated by cooking the fruit to kill any fruit fly maggots.

Alternatively, unwanted fruit can be picked and placed into a plastic bag and left in the sun for at least three days to kill any maggots in the fruit. Afterwards, the bag of unwanted fruit can be disposed of in the garbage.

Any inquiries regarding the movement of commercial consignments of host fruit from the suspension zones to sensitive markets should be directed to the Fruit Fly hotline on 1800 119 498.

For further information contact Lavinia Zirnsak at DPI Bairnsdale on 03 5152 0600.

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