



Media release

From the Department of Primary Industries

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FLEMINGTON FRUIT FLY DETECTIONS SEND A REMINDER

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) has increased its Queensland fruit fly eradication activity following recent detections of the pest in Flemington.

DPI Plant Standards Officer Wendy Coombes said the Flemington detections were a timely reminder of how easily the pest can spread and the importance of remaining vigilant.

“With stone fruit currently in season, it is extremely important for residents to look after their fruit trees and not allow ripe fruit to remain on the tree or on the ground below,” Ms Coombes said.

“Most other fruits (including pome fruit, citrus, berries, tomatoes, capsicums and chillies) are also hosts of Queensland fruit fly and current weather conditions favour its reproduction cycle.

“During the summer holiday period, it’s also important that fruit fly host-produce is not brought into the area from interstate or from the Permanent Fruit Fly Zone in eastern Victoria.”

Ms Coombes said that affected households in and around the Flemington detection sites have already received a leaflet describing DPI’s eradication program.

“The program includes the removal of ripe and semi-ripe fruit from trees in the area and the application of baiting treatments to attract and eradicate the pest,” she said.

“Householders can also aid the eradication program by providing easy access to their backyards and by not removing any home-grown fruit from their properties, as this may cause an infestation elsewhere.”

Fruit fly larvae eat fruit from the inside and make it inedible but the fruit may appear perfect from the outside.

Wherever fruit fly becomes established, it reduces the availability of edible fruit and restricts access to interstate and overseas markets for Victorian fruit industries.

Any enquiries regarding fruit fly should be directed to the DPI Customer Service Centre on 136 186.

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