



The Place To Be

Media release

From the Department of Primary Industries

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FRUIT FLY OUTBREAK AT MOAMA

A Queensland fruit fly outbreak detected at Moama in New South Wales has implications for some Victorian growers of fruit and fruiting vegetables.

Moama lies within the Fruit Fly Exclusion Zone and the Victorian Department of Primary Industries (DPI) has declared a 15-kilometre suspension zone around the detection point.

Fruit growers located within this zone, on both the NSW and Victorian sides of the Murray River, will be required to treat host fruit and certify consignment under an accreditation prior to moving fruit out of the suspension zone.

For movement to Tasmania, host fruit grown within 80km of the detection site must be treated. Fruit consigned through the Melbourne Markets to Tasmania must be shrink-wrapped prior to despatch from the suspension zone.

Bill Ashcroft, DPI Plant Standards Program Manager, said that all affected growers located within these zones need to comply with treatment requirements to maintain their market access.

The outbreak does not affect international trade.

Mr Ashcroft said that a campaign will be conducted to eradicate the pest from the area, and that the co-operation of residents will play a big part in the campaign's success.

“Affected households in the immediate area will receive a leaflet describing the eradication campaign, and DPI field teams will be visiting properties to implement control measures.

“We encourage residents of the area to help by providing easy access to their backyards, by not removing any home-grown fresh fruit from their property, and by looking after any host trees they may have.

“Host trees in home gardens should be pruned to a height which allows fruit to be easily picked when it ripens.”

Most fruits (including citrus, stone and pome fruit, berries, tomatoes, capsicums and chillies) are potential hosts of Queensland fruit fly.

Mr Ashcroft said unwanted home-grown fruit should be placed in an intact plastic bag, sealed, and either left in the sun for seven days or frozen for two days, in order to kill any fruit fly maggots. The bag can then be disposed of in the rubbish bin.

Enquires should be directed to the DPI Customer Service Centre on 136 186.

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