



Media release

From the Department of Primary Industries

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FRUIT FLY OUTBREAK AT WANGADARY

A Queensland fruit fly outbreak has been detected at Wangadary, west of Wangaratta.

The Victorian Department of Primary Industries (DPI) will be declaring a 15-kilometre suspension zone around the detection point for the movement of host fruit to Melbourne and sensitive interstate markets including South Australia and Western Australia. An 80km suspension zone applies for Tasmania.

All host fruit must be certified under a DPI arrangement prior to leaving the 15km suspension zone.

DPI Plant Standards Program Manager Bill Ashcroft said that Wangadary lies within the Fruit Fly Exclusion Zone (FFEZ) and a control program will be conducted to prevent the pest from spreading.

Mr Ashcroft said that the cooperation of residents will be a key to the success of the program.

“Affected households in the immediate area will receive a leaflet describing the control program, and DPI field teams will be visiting properties to implement control measures,” Mr Ashcroft said.

“We strongly encourage local residents 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, grapes, 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 at least a week or placed in a freezer 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. Further information is available on the DPI website www.dpi.vic.gov.au

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