



The Place To Be

Media release

From the Department of Primary Industries

Wednesday, 16 April 2008

Queensland fruit fly detected at Devenish, Eldorado, Whorouly and Beechworth

Outbreaks of Queensland fruit fly have been detected at Devenish, Eldorado, Whorouly and Beechworth in Victoria's north-east.

Bill Ashcroft, Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Plant Standards Program Manager, said that although two of these detections lie outside the Fruit Fly Exclusion Zone, DPI will commence eradication measures as soon as possible, to prevent the fly from spreading to nearby horticultural production areas.

“For each outbreak, a 15-kilometre suspension zone has been declared for movement of fruit to Melbourne and sensitive interstate markets including South Australia and Western Australia.

“Eighty-kilometre suspension zones have been declared for Tasmania.

“Host fruit for these markets must be treated prior to movement from these zones.”

Fruit consigned from the 80km zone through the Melbourne Markets to Tasmania must be shrink-wrapped at despatch, due to the fruit fly outbreak situation in Melbourne.

Mr Ashcroft said affected households in 1.5-km outbreak zones will receive a leaflet describing the local eradication program.

“Residents can help by providing easy access to their backyards and by not removing any home-grown fresh fruit from their property, because this may spread the fly elsewhere.

“All home-grown fruit should be consumed on the property and may only leave the property if it has been cooked or processed.

“It's also very important for residents to look after their fruit trees. Any unwanted home-grown fruit should be placed in a plastic bag and left in the sun for a minimum of three days to kill any fruit fly maggots and then placed in the rubbish bin.”

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

Any enquiries 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.

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