



The Place To Be

Media release

From the Department of Primary Industries

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Queensland fruit fly detected in Shepparton

An outbreak of Queensland fruit fly has been detected in Shepparton, Victoria.

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.

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 since Shepparton is a major fruit production area and lies within the Fruit Fly Exclusion Zone, it is critical that the pest is controlled to prevent it from spreading to other fruit areas within the zone.

“An eradication program will commence within a 1.5 kilometre radius of the detection site, which is located in a residential area of Shepparton,” Mr Ashcroft said.

“The cooperation of residents will be crucial 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.

“We strongly encourage local residents to help by providing easy access to their backyards and by not removing any home-grown fresh fruit from their property.”

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.

Residents can also reduce the spread of fruit fly by looking after any host trees they may have.

“All host fruit should be picked and used as it ripens, with nothing allowed to fall and rot on the ground. Host trees in home gardens should also be pruned to a height which allows fruit to be easily picked,” Mr Ashcroft said.

He added that the new outbreak highlights the need for continued vigilance by residents of Shepparton and surrounding towns.

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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