



Industry Update - Queensland fruit fly (Qfly)

A Quarantine Area has been declared in Perth's southern suburbs to support efforts to eradicate Queensland fruit fly (Qfly), requiring residents and businesses to take action to help protect gardens and stop the spread of the pest to agricultural areas.

The move comes after Qfly was detected in Willagee and Palmyra by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development's (DPIRD's) early detection surveillance trapping grid.

Quarantine Area

A Quarantine Area (QA) has been gazetted today (6 December) to help prevent any further spread and to eradicate the destructive pest.

Under the National Fruit Fly Management Protocol, area freedom for Qfly has been suspended within the QA and controls on the movement of host fruit now apply.

DPIRD is using a traffic light system to define the QA and the zones within it where actions and restrictions will apply.

Corrective Action Zone / Red Zone

The inner 'corrective action zone' around where the Qfly was first detected will be referred to as the red zone. This zone will be the focus of intensive eradication activities including baiting, trapping, inspection of host plants and fruit, community engagement and compliance.

Residents and businesses in the Red Zone must remove all fruit – regardless of maturity – from Qfly host plants, as well as fallen fruit.

Homegrown fruit and fruiting vegetables inside the Red Zone can be consumed or treated by cooking, processing, freezing or solarising by securing it in a black plastic bag and placing on a hard surface in direct sunlight for more than seven days.

Fruit in the Red Zone cannot be moved within or outside the zone, unless treated.

Remaining fruit must be disposed of by securing in a black plastic bag and disposing in the general waste bin – not the recycling or food organics, garden organics (FOGO) bin.

Export Assurance Zone / Orange Zone

The wider 'export assurance zone' within the 15 km radius of the initial detections will be referred to as the orange zone and is established to mitigate the risk of further spread. The green zone is the area outside of the QA where area freedom for Qfly is still recognised.



For host fruit, which includes fruiting vegetables, and host plants bearing fruit that are grown in the orange zone and moved for commercial purposes, they can move within the orange and to the red zone so long as they meet the movement requirements for the zone, available on DPIRD's website.

Host fruit and host plants grown in the orange zone can only move to the green zone if meet at least one of the following conditions:

- a) the fruit has been treated by processing, cooking, or freezing for a minimum of 24 hours; or
- b) the Department has been notified (prior to the movement) of the fruit to be moved for processing, and the fruit is securely transported to a processing facility in accordance with measures approved by the Department's Chief Plant Biosecurity Officer; or
- c) the Department has been notified (prior to movement) of the fruit or host plants to be moved, and the fruit or host plants are treated, securely packaged, stored and transported in accordance with measures approved by the Department's Chief Plant Biosecurity Officer; or
- d) the Department has been notified (prior to the movement) of the fruit to be moved for treatment outside of the quarantine area, and the fruit is securely packaged, stored and transported in accordance with measures approved by the Department's Chief Plant Biosecurity Officer; or
- e) all fruit has been removed from the host plant prior to the movement of the plant; or
- f) the fruit or host plants are moved in accordance with an authorisation given by an inspector or as directed by an inspector.

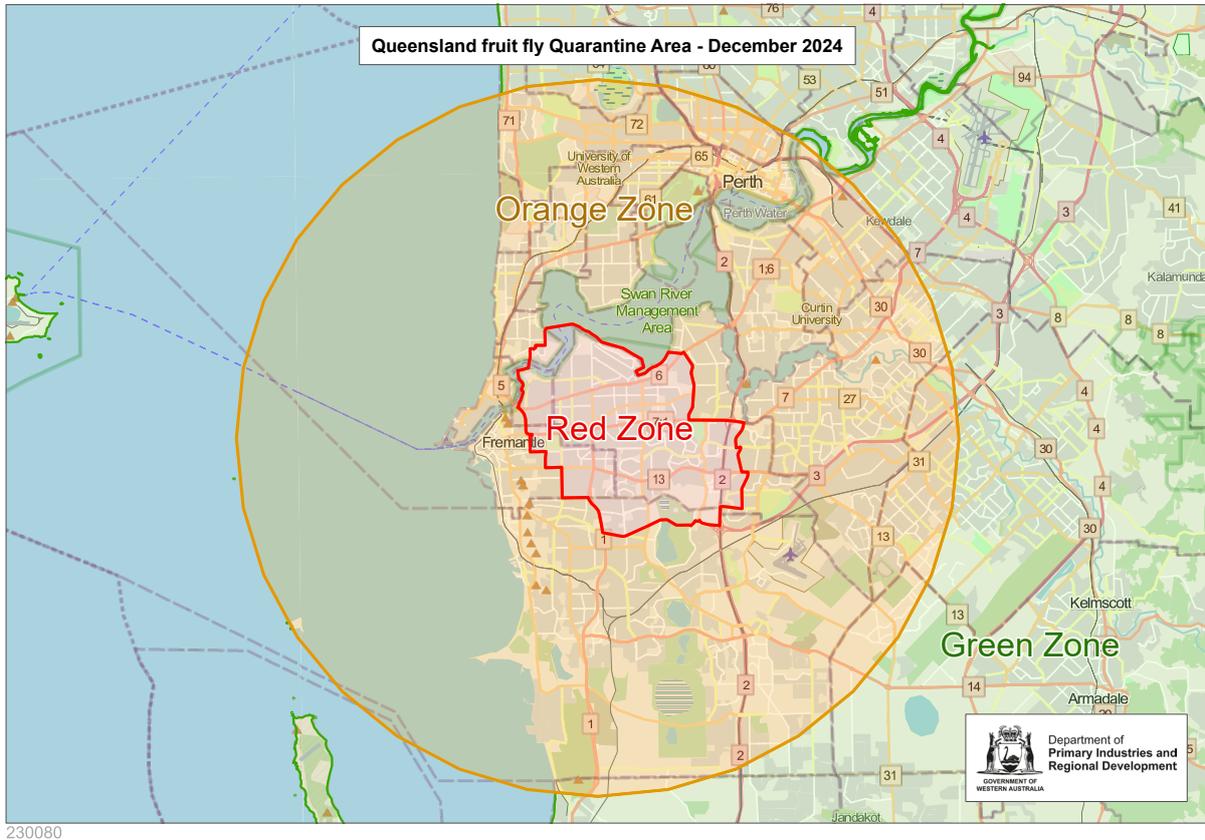
Fruit originating from the green zone and entering or passing through the QA must be secured against fruit fly by being packaged, stored and transported, as applicable, under any of the following conditions.

1. Unvented packages.
2. Vented packages with the vents secured with mesh with a maximum aperture of 1.6 mm.
3. Vented packages enclosing a liner bag or liner sheet that obscure vent holes.
4. Packages, bins or palletised units fully enclosed under plastic wrap, tarpaulins, hessian, mesh or other coverings that prevent infestation by Qfly.
5. Fully enclosed or screened buildings, cold-rooms, vehicles or other facilities free from gaps or other entry points greater than 1.6 mm.

A full list of approved measures is available from wa.gov.au/qfly

Green Zone

The green zone is any area outside of the red and orange zones.



Perth Markets

- On 28 November, DPIRD representatives visited Perth Markets to brief Perth Markets, Market West, and market agents on the situation and likely impacts to their operations. Potential quarantine measures were discussed with an opportunity for market agents to provide feedback.
- Growers delivering host fruit to the Perth Markets must ensure that the fruit is in secure conditions to prevent Qfly stinging fruit and reproducing.
- A video explaining the requirements for commercial markets when the Quarantine Area is implemented is available here - <https://youtu.be/Ha38ndR-HeM>



Biosecurity and reporting

Reports of suspected Qfly can be made to DPIRD's Pest and Disease Information Service on 9368 3080 or via the MyPestGuide® Reporter app or [website](#).

More information

More information on Qfly and the biosecurity response can be found on the department's website <https://www.wa.gov.au/qfly> as the response progresses.

Important Disclaimer

The Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and the State of Western Australia accept no liability whatsoever by reason of negligence or otherwise arising from the use or release of this information or any part of it.

Copyright © State of Western Australia (Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development), 2024.