

Important biosecurity information

for schools, parents and students

9 FEBRUARY 2018

Fruit fly has recently been detected at sites in Tasmania.

The Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE) has formally declared Control Areas to restrict movement, transport and supply of fruit and vegetables that host fruit fly to reduce the risk of transporting fruit fly to different areas.

These biosecurity measures also apply to schools within the declared control area.

Fruit fly can physically damage fruit and some vegetables, and significantly restrict trade of fresh fruit and vegetables into valuable markets in Australia and overseas.

If left unchecked, the presence of fruit fly in Tasmania could impact negatively on the state economy.

Tasmanians and visitors are encouraged to be fruit fly aware and to be vigilant about these pests.

I live in a Control Area and my children go to school just outside the Control Area, can they take fruit and vegetables to school?

Fruit cut up into fruit salad and sliced homegrown tomato in your sandwich is fine. However, you should not transport whole home grown host produce from your property. This is to reduce the risk of transporting fruit fly to different areas. Whole host produce are a greater risk of spreading fruit fly because they could be rotten inside due to the presence of fruit fly.

Which fruits and vegetables are 'host fruit'?

Common host produce includes, apples, apricots, blackberries, capsicums, cherries, figs, grapefruit, mulberries, nashis, nectarines, oranges, peaches, pears, plums, raspberries, strawberries, tomatoes.

Whole host produce is a greater risk of spreading fruit fly because they could be rotten inside due to the presence of fruit fly.

Minor host produce includes lemons, limes, quinces, pumpkins and walnuts. For more information and a full list of host produce visit <http://dPIPWE.tas.gov.au/fruitfly>

Fruit Disposal

All host produce is required to be double bagged. Place produce inside a plastic bag, seal that bag then place inside another bag and seal, this can then be disposed of in general waste bins

Produce must not be composted or disposed of in greenwaste as fruit fly larvae can survive the composting process.

If disposed in large skip bins we ask that the lids be kept closed and it is arranged that they are emptied regularly.

School Kitchen Gardens in the Control Area

All fallen host produce must be picked up and double bagged as described under fruit disposal instructions.

No fruit can be sold or given away. It can only be used on site for cooking, be frozen or disposed of.

I live outside a Control Area and my children go to school within the Control Area. Can they take fruit and vegetables to school?

Host produce from outside the Control Area can be taken within the Control Area. This will not spread fruit fly as long as it is either consumed or properly disposed of in the Control Area. However, host produce cannot then be moved from school to outside of the Control Area.

Are there any penalties for disregarding the Control Area restrictions?

People are required by law to report promptly any signs of fruit fly. Penalties may apply under the *Plant Quarantine Act 1997*.

If you think you have produce infested with fruit fly, please call Biosecurity Tasmania on 6165 3774.

More information

For the latest fruit fly information visit <http://dPIPWE.tas.gov.au/fruitfly>

Map on following page.

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