



Biosecurity New Zealand

Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua



To the property owner or residents

Biosecurity New Zealand is carrying out a programme to see if there are more Queensland fruit flies in your neighbourhood and we need your help.

The Queensland fruit fly is a major threat to New Zealand horticulture, our economy and to many of the fruit and vegetables people grow at home. We don't want it to establish here.

We have applied small amounts of bait to some trees on your property to attract and kill Queensland fruit flies. The treatment has been used on all trees that the fruit fly feeds on (known as hosts). If you want to know more about the Queensland fruit fly, please visit: www.biosecurity.govt.nz/fruitfly.

We will return once more in the next seven days to reapply bait and then every seven days from then on for as long as the Controlled Area Notice remains in place. If it rains, we may need to do this more often.

The bait used

There are two components to the bait – a protein that attracts adult fruit flies and a very low concentration of an insecticide to kill the flies. The baits are highly toxic to fruit flies. We have taken every precaution to make sure the baits are safe around people and animals.

We have used one of two insecticides: either fipronil or spinetoram. The amount of fipronil used in the bait is similar to that in a flea treatment you would give a large dog. Spinetoram is commonly used in agriculture. Bees are not attracted to the bait.

We ask that you don't touch any of the bait, or try to remove it. Interfering with the bait could harm our efforts to find more flies and would be an offence under the Biosecurity Act 1993.

A small amount (50ml) of bait mixture is applied onto some of the leaves within the shady parts of host trees. We use a low pressure drench gun to ensure the bait placement is well-directed and away from any contact with fruit.

Can I eat fruit or vegetables that have been, or are near areas that have had bait laid?

If the bait mixture contacts any fruit, our staff will remove it from the tree and safely dispose of it. Unfortunately, for dense trees like feijoa, this might mean removing a lot of fruit. As a safety precaution, we recommend **not eating fruit or leaves from trees that have been treated.**

Vegetables in your garden will be safe to eat. We will not be using bait on vegetables. As a good food safety practice we recommend you wash any fresh fruit or vegetables with cold tap water before eating it.

The restrictions on fruit and vegetable movement and the baiting treatment is likely to continue for several months, or until we are satisfied the fruit fly has been eradicated from your neighbourhood.

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We appreciate all of the support you have given to Biosecurity New Zealand and thank you for your patience as we carry out this important biosecurity work.

Removal of fruit

As a precautionary measure we have removed the following fruit from your trees, as bait accidentally came in contact with the fruit:

Will this operation affect my health?

The treatments being used in this fruit fly programme are not expected to cause any health issues. However, if you feel you or a family member are experiencing health concerns, you should **IMMEDIATELY SEEK ADVICE FROM YOUR DOCTOR**, or call the National Poisons centre on **0800 764 766**.

Compensation

If you suffer financial loss as a result of the baiting and insecticides, you may be entitled to apply for compensation.

For information or a compensation claim form, please contact our Compensation coordinator either:

- by phone **0800 00 83 33**
- by email: **compensationcoordinator@mpi.govt.nz**
- or visit: **www.biosecurity.govt.nz/biosecurity-compensation**

Please note that Biosecurity New Zealand is unable to provide legal or business advice to claimants.

Circumstances of entry and purpose

These measures have been taken under sections 109, 114, 121 and 121A of the Biosecurity Act 1993 for the purposes of eradication and managing the spread of an unwanted organism, namely Queensland fruit fly, *Bactrocera tryoni*.

The time and date of entry to your property:

Details of all persons who have entered your

property: Name, ID, company representing, Position (AP/Inspector/Assistant):

Action taken at property:

Nothing seized / Seized (fruit): (describe)(delete one)

Bait application completed:

If you have further questions and want to speak to someone, please call **0800 80 99 66** or email **fruitfly@asurequality.com**.

Thank you for your continuing support. We can't do it without you.

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New Zealand Government