

# Oriental fruit fly

## – what you need to know



**Biosecurity New Zealand**  
Ministry for Primary Industries  
Manatū Ahu Matua

### Fruit flies can seriously harm New Zealand's fruit and vegetable crops and stop us from exporting our produce.

A single male Oriental fruit fly was found on 3 January in a surveillance trap in a suburban back yard in the Papatoetoe/Mangere area. Checks of the other 187 traps in the area did not find any fruit flies in them.

A biosecurity operation is now underway in response to the discovery of the fruit fly, field teams are setting up additional fruit fly traps in the area, and legal restrictions will be put in place.

#### What is the oriental fruit fly and how did it get here?

The Oriental fruit fly is widespread in Africa and Asia. In Oceania, it is present in Christmas Island, Papua New Guinea, Palau, Hawaii and Tahiti. However, it is absent from Australia.

It can affect over 300 hosts including apple, kiwifruit, citrus, and tomatoes. Adult flies lay eggs into fruit. The young stages (maggots) feed inside the fruit, causing it to rot and become unmarketable.

Biosecurity New Zealand has among the strictest controls in the world for the importation of fruit and checks at the border. The most likely way that fruit flies can arrive in New Zealand is on fresh fruit and vegetables.

#### What is happening in Papatoetoe/Mangere?

The capture of a single male does not mean we have an outbreak. However, while we do our checks for any other fruit flies, we need community help to prevent any possible spread.

We will be ramping up trapping and inspection, with daily checks in a 200-metre zone from the original find and inspection of traps every 3 days in a second zone out to 1500 metres.

As a precautionary measure, we have put legal restrictions in place on the movement of fruit and vegetables out of the area where the fruit fly was found.

You may notice increased activity in the neighbourhood as we go about inspections and trapping. Our field officers may ask to look at fruit trees on your property. They will always show you a form of official identification and will only enter your property with your permission.

If you live in the area and you're preparing lunch for work or school, you can still include fruit and vegetables, just make sure it's cut up and you can't see any larvae in it.

If you see eggs or larvae/maggots in your fruit, please immediately tie it inside a plastic bag and call us on: **0800 80 99 66**.

You can also help us by co-operating with our staff to place traps on your property if they need to.

#### Controlled Area Notice – what you need to know

There is now a Controlled Area Notice in place in the Papatoetoe/Mangere area, that restricts the movement of fruit and vegetables. This area is divided into two zones, A and B, which have different restrictions.

Zone A is a 200 metre zone. Zone B covers a 1500 metre area.

Check if you are in the controlled area and which zone applies to you on our website: [www.biosecurity.govt.nz/fruitfly](http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/fruitfly)

We'll also have Biosecurity New Zealand staff in the area handing out information, as well as signage showing where the restrictions are.

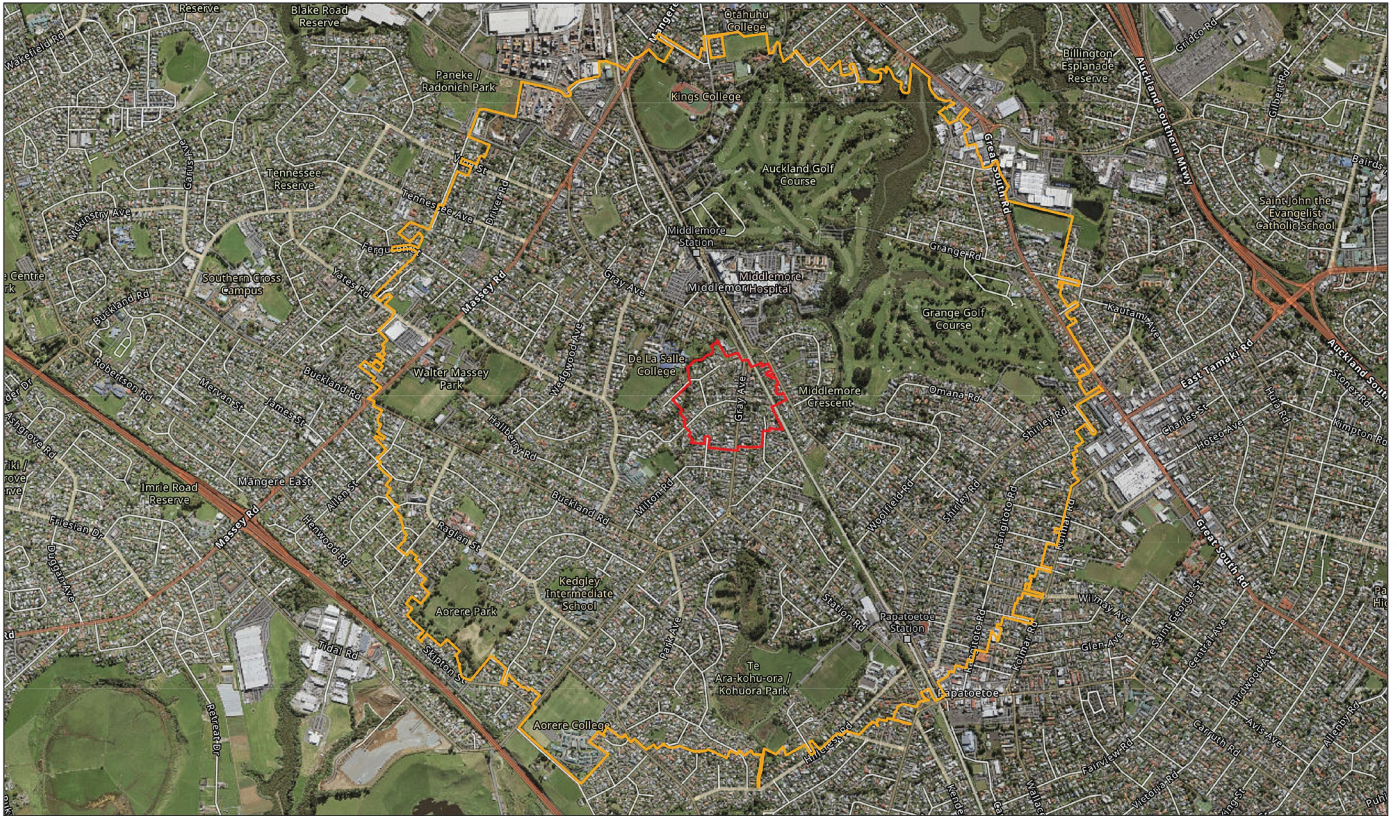
**If you live in Zone A** – No whole fruit and vegetables (other than leafy or soil free root vegetables and cooked, processed, preserved, dried, frozen and canned fruit) can be moved from Zone A of the controlled area.

Compost and green waste from gardens also cannot be moved out of this zone.

Residents in Zone A are asked to avoid composting fruit and vegetables. Separate fruit and vegetable waste from the rest of your household rubbish and dispose of it using a sink waste disposal unit if you have one, or put it in the bins provided by Biosecurity New Zealand. These bins will be delivered shortly, and residents advised of their location. Your general rubbish can go out with your normal rubbish collection.

# Controlled Area

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Oriental Fruit Fly Auckland 2025  
Zones A & B

Legend

 Zone A

 Zone B

Date: 4/01/2025

Produced by: Response Operations



1:15,000

0 0.2 0.4 km

Please also leave any home-grown fruit or vegetables that have fallen from trees or plants (windfall) on the ground in your garden. Biosecurity New Zealand inspectors may collect this material to check it for the presence of fruit fly. Waste from home-grown fruit and vegetables that have been already chopped up and is free of any bugs can be disposed of in the Biosecurity New Zealand bin. If you find eggs or larvae in home-grown produce, please tie all the fruit or vegetable material inside a plastic bag and call Biosecurity New Zealand on **0800 80 99 66**.

**If you live in Zone B** – No fruit and vegetables grown in the Zone B can be moved out of the controlled area. You are free to move commercially purchased fruit and vegetables (e.g. fruit and vegetables brought at the supermarket) out of the area. Home grown produce waste and garden waste needs to be disposed of in Biosecurity New Zealand bins.

**If in doubt, don't take it out.**

## What is the potential impact on business?

An infestation of oriental fruit fly would cause control costs, production losses, and some countries might stop accepting our exported produce. This could have a significant impact on many agricultural businesses in New Zealand.

## How to identify the fly



Adult flies:

- are a little larger than a housefly (6mm to 8mm long);
- have a dark "T" shaped marking on the abdomen (the part behind the waist);
- usually have a bright yellow and orange abdomen (but can vary);
- have clear wings.
- The female fly has a pointed "sting" to lay eggs inside fruit (but she can't sting or bite people).

## For updates:

Find full information on the oriental fruit fly and the biosecurity response at: [www.biosecurity.govt.nz/fruitfly](http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/fruitfly)