

# NATIONAL FRUIT FLY STRATEGY

Implementation Plan

2023-24



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## Acknowledgement of Country

PHA acknowledges the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the traditional custodians of the lands where we work, live, and learn.

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### Plant Health Australia

ABN 97 092 607 997  
Level 1, 1 Phipps Close  
Deakin ACT 2600

Phone 02 6215 7700  
Email [fruitfly@phau.com.au](mailto:fruitfly@phau.com.au)  
[preventfruitfly.com.au](http://preventfruitfly.com.au)



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## Glossary of Terms

Acronym	Term
AFFTAC	Australian Fruit Fly Technical Advisory Subcommittee
AMIA	Australian Mango Industry Association
ATGA	Australian Table Grape Association Inc.
DAFF	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
DPIRD	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australia
EPP	Emergency Plant Pest
NRE Tas	Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Tasmania
PIRSA	Department of Primary Industries and Regions, South Australia
GSPFA	Greater Sunraysia Pest Free Area
ICA	Interstate Certification Assurance
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
LLS	Local Land Services New South Wales
LAMP	Loop-Mediated Isothermal Amplification
NAQS	Northern Australian Quarantine Strategy
NFFC	National Fruit Fly Council
NIAP	National Interstate Certification Assurance Audit Program
NSW DPI	New South Wales Department of Primary Industries
PFA	Pest Free Area
PHA	Plant Health Australia
PHC	Plant Health Committee
(the) Protocol	Australia's National Fruit Fly Management Protocol

Acronym	Term
QDAF	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Queensland
Qfly	Queensland fruit fly
SIT	Sterile Insect Technology
SPHD	Subcommittee on Plant Health Diagnostics
CSIRO	The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation

## About this Report

The 2023–24 Implementation Plan collates key fruit fly activities that have been planned and resourced by stakeholders from 1 July 2023 to 31 June 2024 and maps them against strategic objectives in the National Fruit Fly Strategy (NFFS). This is then used to monitor progress against the NFFS and identify gaps that need to be addressed in the national system.

The implementation plan acknowledges many different stakeholders' considerable and ongoing contributions to fruit fly management in Australia.

Importantly, it provides an opportunity to collectively consider potential gaps in this system as guided by the Intergovernmental Agreement on Strengthening Australia's Fruit Fly Management System, and the 2015 National Fruit Fly Research, Development and Extension Plan.

The Priority Areas feed into the Strategic Objectives, which each have a specific Key Performance Indicator to work towards the overarching NFFS goal of "Australia will have a contemporary, viable, cost-effective and coordinated national approach to fruit fly management, with stakeholders committed to the national strategy."

## Strategic Framework 2020-25

### Vision

Australia has a robust fruit fly management system that supports growth in horticultural production, market access and trade.

### Goal

Australia will have a contemporary, viable, cost-effective, and coordinated national approach to fruit fly management, with stakeholders committed to the national strategy.

### Strategic objectives and key performance indicators



#### 1. Maintain Australia's freedom from exotic fruit fly

Maintaining freedom from exotic fruit flies is essential to the sustainability of Australia's horticultural industries.

**Key Performance Indicator:**

*Incursion(s) of exotic fruit flies in Australia are detected early and eradicated.*



#### 2. Minimise the incidence and spread of fruit fly

Improving the management and suppression of established fruit fly species and preventing their further spread will help support productivity, reduce management costs, and enable trade and market access opportunities through low pest prevalence and pest-free areas.

**Key Performance Indicator:** *Domestic and international recognition of fruit fly pest free areas is retained or increased.*



#### 3. Implement national systems that support market access

Providing markets (domestic and international) confidence in our fruit fly system will ensure Australian growers can capitalise on our reputation for high-quality produce.

**Key Performance Indicator:** *There is no critical non-conformance in the national fruit fly assurance system.*



#### 4. Facilitate a cooperative and committed national approach to fruit fly management

The cooperation of governments, industries and communities that operate in different fruit fly management areas is vital to the success of the fruit fly system.

**Key Performance Indicator:** *Consistency between governments, industries, and communities' strategy and strategic fruit fly objectives.*

## Priority Areas

Eight different yet interdependent priority areas have been identified for the strategy.



### 1. Market access

Develop a framework of policy, legislation and operations that enables market access with the least trade restrictive measures and is legally enforceable and technically justified.



### 2. Management of established fruit fly

Build and promote efficient and effective methods to manage established fruit fly species, reduce the impact on production and facilitate access to sensitive markets.



### 3. Prevention, preparedness, and response

Continue to support the development and resourcing of prevention, preparedness and response measures for incursions or outbreaks.



### 4. Research

Maintain and enhance fruit fly research capability, capacity, and resources, pursuing research and extension that focus on nationally agreed priorities.



### 5. Surveillance

Ensure a nationally consistent surveillance framework that clarifies fruit fly distribution, prevalence, and control.



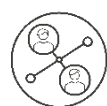
### 6. Diagnostics

Maintain and enhance rapid diagnostic capability and capacity to support responses to incursions or outbreaks and to confirm area freedom.



### 7. Communication and engagement

Adopt systems and mechanisms for the efficient and effective communication, training, extension, and uptake of fruit fly information by a broad range of audiences.



### 8. Cooperation

Maintain and enhance engagement processes that coordinate, progress, and improve fruit fly management systems.



## 1. Market access

Develop a framework of policy, legislation and operations that enables market access with the least trade-restrictive measures and is legally enforceable and technically justified.

Australia has strong domestic and international biosecurity systems vital for supporting market access for fruit fly affected industries. These systems must reflect internationally accepted standards and protocols, uphold risk management principles, and be transparent and scientifically robust to maintain confidence among domestic and international trading partners. It is essential that fruit fly policy, legislation, and operations continuously improve to meet market access needs.

Key Stakeholder Activities	
Activity	Lead/Champion
Continue to build confidence in, acceptance, and capacity in the use of phytosanitary irradiation for market access through involvement in the building capacity in irradiation pathways for export project.	Agriculture Victoria
Continue to contribute to the development, and periodic review of domestic trading protocols used to support trade of host produce across jurisdictional borders with varying fruit fly status. This includes working with DAFF to achieve an elevated level of consistency in the use of Methyl Bromide fumigation and irradiation/microwave technology as measures to enable domestic and international market access.	Agriculture Victoria
Support Victoria's work to strengthen the domestic protocol for fumigation of host fruit (ICA04) to better address risk and align with arrangements at the national border.	Agriculture Victoria
Implement revised trapping network to support the detection of exotic fruit flies.	Agriculture Victoria
Formal revocation of the Greater Sunraysia PFA orders following implementation of revised trapping network.	Agriculture Victoria
Modernising phytosanitary risk management to biosecurity and safe trade (AM21002). This includes: 2-4 significant standards, guidelines, processes, tools, or templates addressing priority areas of horticulture trade-related biosecurity regulation developed and agreed for national adoption. As much as possible, domestic standards will be harmonised with international requirements; Rapid Pest Risk Assessment tool extended to include rapid risk management; at least 2 nationally significant market access protocols reviewed, and supporting data packages revised (based on available data sources, and with data gaps identified and prioritised); surveillance protocol to provide statistical confidence in detecting a very low prevalence of a target pest (fruit fly, thrips, whitefly); surveillance protocol to confirm pest absence in a Pest Free Production Place (PFPP) (fruit fly, thrips, whitefly); peer-reviewed publication (draft manuscript) to support the use of PFPP for fruit fly host crops; trapping and fruit inspection data sets to support negotiation of improved market access for apples and blueberry based on better estimation of prior risk and contribution of best practice pest management programs to risk reduction; strengthened data sets quantifying host status for Medfly in apple and blueberry, and <i>Epiphyas</i> moths in apple; peer-reviewed publication (draft manuscript) testing the PRReSTo tool for use in supporting market access applications.	DPIRD

Key Stakeholder Activities	
Activity	Lead/Champion
Australian Horticultural Market Access Research Partnership (AM22000). This includes development of data packages; harmonised phytosanitary methods; increasing capacity; applying physiological understanding to integrated pest management; updated in-field management guidelines; list of alternative chemicals; molecular markers; population dynamics model; systematic reduction of fly pressure.	DPIRD
Securing Our Borders initiative- pre-treatment inspection of high-risk fruit fly produce during high-risk season, increased inspection regime on-shore (Tasmania) of high-risk produce, and review and monitoring of bilateral arrangements with Victoria.	NRE Tas
Undertake risk analysis to support proposed market access tools proposed by other jurisdictions.	NSW DPI
Develop new and amend existing Interstate Certification Assurance (ICA) and CA to meet market access needs for NSW growers, including protocols. Exploring systems approaches to increase and support market access.	NSW DPI
Investigate and rectify areas of non-compliance identified in the national and domestic system that underpin market access.	DAFF
Finalise development of Protocol compliant trapping surveillance on cherry, <i>Rubus</i> and strawberry production properties for use in developing Systems Approach market access options.	Industry
Support development of alternative market access approaches (e.g. Areas of Low Pest Prevalence, winter windows, system approach, climate models) to underpin trade negotiations for fruit flies.	DAFF/ States & Territories/ CSIRO

## 2. Management of established fruit fly

Build and promote efficient and effective methods to manage established fruit fly species, reduce the impact on production, and facilitate access to sensitive markets.

A better understanding of established fruit flies helps to improve the effectiveness of control methods and tools. Growers must have management and disinfestation options to control fruit flies and maintain or gain market access. These options must be economical and underpinned by evidence and confidence in supporting assurance systems.

Key Stakeholder Activities	
Activity	Lead/Champion
Review and implementation of the review of the Sunraysia PFA trapping grid to support revocation of the PFA.	Agriculture Victoria
Evaluate the southwest general fruit fly surveillance program and use the key findings to inform decision making processes across the broader fruit fly reporting and awareness program.	Agriculture Victoria
Provide grants to regional fruit fly programs in Victoria's three major horticulture regions of Sunraysia, the Goulburn Murray and Yarra Valley to ensure that area-wide management can be embedded in the community prior to the program finishing in June 2025.	Agriculture Victoria
Target unresolved hot spots to support landholders to act to manage fruit fly.	Agriculture Victoria
Update industry and community websites and other engagement activities to promote fruit fly management.	Agriculture Victoria
Continue to provide fruit fly management information from DPI and LLS websites.	NSW DPI
Advise industry of any relevant advancements in management practices.	NSW DPI
Continue conducting field investigations to provide advice on Qfly management.	GSPFA
Continue removal of host fruit tree across the region thereby reducing pest pressure and hosts.	GSPFA
Ensure provision of Qfly control devices throughout the region.	GSPFA
Development of hot spot action plans to address sites with habitual high pressure of Qfly.	GSPFA
Development and trial of on-site fermentation processes for soft fruit to increase the viability of fruit destruction and reduce the need to transport waste off-site.	Yarra Valley Fruit Fly Project
Design and publication of brochures (paper and electronic versions) and videos detailing each best practice area for Qfly management.	Yarra Valley Fruit Fly Project
Unmanaged Qfly host removal on public land alongside participating private properties.	Yarra Valley Fruit Fly Project
Grower workshop with updates from Agriculture Victoria researchers re: mass releases and trapping strategy plus updates from the GSPFA.	Citrus Australia
Ongoing work on design and implementation of new trapping grid across jurisdictions.	DAFF/ States & Territories

### 3. Prevention, preparedness, and response

Continue to support the development and resourcing of prevention, preparedness and response measures for incursions or outbreaks.

Australia works hard to maintain freedom from exotic fruit flies and minimise the spread of established fruit flies into pest-free areas. Understanding fruit fly characteristics and risk pathways can help in the design of detection and control measures to manage incursions and prevent fruit fly spread.

Governments, industries, and communities also have a role to play in taking steps to prepare for potential risks, including planning for fruit fly eradication and for business continuity. There are high returns on investment for prevention and preparedness activities and these remain a priority for Australia's fruit fly management system.

Key Stakeholder Activities	
Activity	Lead/Champion
A series of workshops/exercises will be held to improve internal processes for investigation of EPPs.	Agriculture Victoria
Update and implement incursion/eradication responses in line with national protocols.	NSW DPI
Develop and implement a NSW Fruit Fly Action Plan.	NSW DPI
Complete work on biosecurity preparedness for oriental fruit fly and exotic fruit flies.	NSW DPI
Ensure implementation of revised trapping grid in Sunraysia.	NSW DPI
Deliver fruit fly control responsibilities in the areas of Victoria adjacent to Riverland Pest Free Area.	PIRSA
Continued development of the Port Augusta Qfly SIT factory, including expansion of facility and development of Medfly SIT capacity.	PIRSA
Administer the Exotic Fruit Fly in Torres Strait Response Plan to eradicate incursions of exotic fruit fly species from Torres Strait in response to detections from Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy (NAQS) surveillance.	QDAF
Early detection and rapid response hotline/email contact, support and sharing of best practice knowledge, followed up with targeted regional engagement workshops.	Yarra Valley Fruit Fly Project
Implement National Action Plan for Exotic Fruit Flies.	DAFF
Communicate potential or identified areas of risk of exotic fruit fly incursion.	DAFF
Engage with stakeholders on pest prioritisation of exotic fruit flies.	DAFF
Continued revision leading to formalisation of a national Sterile Insect Technique (SIT) policy for consistent application of this technology incorporating latest research results.	DAFF
Implement incursion and eradication procedures for exotic incursions on an as needs basis.	States & Territories
Implement incursion and eradication procedures in pest free areas in accordance with Australia's National Fruit Fly Management Protocol.	States & Territories

## 4. Research

Maintain and enhance fruit fly research capability, capacity, and resources, pursuing research and extension that focus on nationally agreed priorities.

Research, development, and extension activities underpin all elements of fruit fly management, including operations, legislation, regulation, market access, biosecurity, and improvements in management practices. Research provides technically justifiable approaches and innovative solutions to enable market access and sustainable production. Capability and capacity must be maintained, and that research, development and extension are prioritised, coordinated, and strengthened through national and international research linkages.

Key Stakeholder Activities	
Activity	Lead/Champion
Support the establishment of the Fresh and Secure Trade Alliance (FASTA) funded through Hort Innovation.	Hort Innovation / QDAF
Finalise post-factory pilot of SIT.	NSW DPI
Ensure delivery of the project: Biosecurity Preparedness for Oriental Fruit Fly (FF18001).	NSW DPI
Comparison of manual and automated traps in the field.	Yarra Valley Fruit Fly Project
Provision of captured Qfly to research organisations for genetic sequencing, potentially to assist in determining Qfly pathways.	CSIRO
Share findings from Strengthening Australia's Fruit Fly Management System reports, where applicable, with relevant stakeholders.	DAFF
Support further development and extension of results from the DAFF-funded phenology, demography, and distribution of fruit flies project.	States & Territories

## 5. Surveillance

Ensure a nationally consistent surveillance framework that clarifies fruit fly distribution, prevalence, and control.

Surveillance systems provide early detection of fruit flies, deliver information for risk analyses, and demonstrate the fruit fly status of an area. They are an integral part of fruit fly management and essential for rapid response and market access.

While surveillance must be done in accordance with agreed standards and protocols, it is also increasingly important that it is efficient, effective, and able to harness information from both specific (programs to formally demonstrate pest presence or absence) and general (drawn from various government or non-government) sources.

Key Stakeholder Activities	
Activity	Lead/Champion
Finalise review and implementation of an updated fruit fly trapping network to ensure that the network is fit for purpose and provides the best outcomes for Victoria.	Agriculture Victoria
Maintain Tasmania's permanent fruit fly trapping grid with associated maintenance as required.	NRE Tas
Ensure surveillance meets national standards by updating Operating procedures.	NSW DPI
Ensure implementation of effective support programs for surveillance, diagnostics and reporting including timely reporting of incursions.	NSW DPI
Facilitate the deployment of RapidAIM Qfly monitoring traps.	GSPFA
Further development of an improved set of domestic trade arrangements for Medfly based on the existing ICA arrangements that are accepted for Qfly.	PIRSA
Continue preparedness/contingency planning workshops in the SA Riverland and other growing areas to prepare and support growers throughout the region.	PIRSA
Continue to maintain trapping grid for exotic fruit flies in metro Adelaide and in the SA Riverland.	PIRSA
Continue to invest significantly to eradicate any outbreaks of Medfly and of Qfly in South Australia.	PIRSA
Further development of research into the use of fruit fly baits and lures to better inform the use of these tools during outbreak response.	PIRSA
Implement ongoing phases of "Restrictions are in place" fruit fly community awareness. Continue to provide the public with information on activities for the fruit fly outbreaks across metropolitan Adelaide and in the Riverland. This includes sharing information with key stakeholders such as local councils, multicultural community organisations, the Nursery and Gardening Association of SA, the SA Produce Market, horticulture and other retail industry bodies and representatives, sending information to residents within outbreak areas to help with the response, and be proactive in their gardens to help protect SA from fruit fly. An industry bulletin (emailed) and a regular column in the Riverland newspaper will continue to provide updates to targeted stakeholders. Continue delivery of the school's engagement program and community speaking program. Engage with targeted stakeholders in industry and media to promote key messaging to be shared on garden maintenance to reduce fruit fly risks.	PIRSA

Key Stakeholder Activities	
Activity	Lead/Champion
Continue to support regional consultative mechanisms in South Australia to engage with industry and other stakeholders.	PIRSA
Continue area-wide management surveillance grid, on farm intensive surveillance, emergency response trapping (additional), and citizen science trapping/reporting.	Yarra Valley Fruit Fly Project
Continue fruit fly surveillance in mango orchards and packing sheds. Collate and provide data to PHA for inclusion into <i>AUSPestCheck</i> ®.	AMIA
Provide a regional and national overview of the fruit fly surveillance and pest status for government and industry stakeholders by collating integrating and presenting trapping data in <i>AUSPestCheck</i> ®.	States & Territories
Facilitate and support integrated fruit fly surveillance programs for government and industry stakeholders using <i>AUSPestCheck</i> ®.	States & Territories
Undertake surveillance of high-risk pathways for exotic fruit flies, including ports of entry surveillance conducted by states and territories and the Torres Strait surveillance conducted by NAQS.	States & Territories

## 6. Diagnostics

Maintain and enhance rapid diagnostic capability and capacity to support responses to incursions or outbreaks and to confirm area freedom.

Accurate and rapid fruit fly identification underpins responsiveness to potential incursions or outbreaks and increases the chance of successful eradication. Tools and materials that enhance the ease and throughput of identification of species complexes are of particular value. Confidence in diagnostic capability across a range of established and exotic fruit fly species is fundamental to providing national assurance of area freedom.

Key Stakeholder Activities	
Activity	Lead/Champion
Application of LAMP technology to suspect Qfly if initial ID cannot determine species.	Agriculture Victoria
Maintain diagnostic capacity for rapid diagnosis of fruit fly. This includes dedicated specialist diagnostic expertise.	NRE Tas
ALA Data mobilisation strategy - grant 2023.	QDAF
Increase efficiencies in diagnostics and reporting with finalised trap base and implementation.	NSW DPI
Ensure diagnostic and reporting is in line with national protocols. Including updating Operating procedures.	NSW DPI
Increase efficiencies in diagnostics and reporting through support programs.	NSW DPI
Ensure diagnostic and reporting is in line with national protocols.	NSW DPI
Incorporate a national diagnostic standard for Sterile Insect Technique fruit flies in the National Fruit Fly Management Protocol.	AFFTAC/ PHC
Expand the National Plant Biosecurity Diagnostic Network (NPBDN) to be the central point for all activities within the national plant biosecurity diagnostics system.	SPHD
Provide a career pathway for diagnosticians, including through the National Professional Development Program.	SPHD



## 7. Communication and engagement

Adopt systems and mechanisms for the efficient and effective communication, training, extension, and uptake of fruit fly information by a broad range of audiences.

A cohesive fruit fly management system relies on effective sharing and adoption of relevant information. It improves the quality of decision-making and ensures stakeholders at all levels are better equipped to manage fruit fly challenges. Reliable and up-to-date information is also instrumental in maintaining or enhancing industry competitiveness. Improved communication and engagement across fruit fly management systems will help increase innovation uptake and create shared outcomes. It is essential that information reaches those who benefit from fruit fly management systems, including consumers, wholesalers, retailers, exporters, importers, transport operators and treatment providers.

Key Stakeholder Activities	
Activity	Lead/Champion
Regional Governance Groups to develop implementation plans through the area-wide management grants program. These plans will include region-specific awareness and communications plans focusing on local messaging consistent with state and national campaigns and an annual calendar of communications.	Agriculture Victoria
Agriculture Victoria to review and implement the 'State-wide communication and media plan' a seasonal calendar of media, social media, and direct contact with relevant organisations. Continue to support local government by providing fruit fly management information suitable for their use and dissemination and include communications about fruit fly research projects undertaken by Agriculture Victoria Research to assist growers and communities recognise the potential long-term benefits of the research program.	Agriculture Victoria
Develop eLearning training modules to train new staff in nurseries and agrichemical organisations so they have the knowledge to support communities.	Agriculture Victoria
Update The Fruit fly Management for Vegetable Growers booklet originally written by Jenny Eckman to provide a handy resource for growers in the key Victorian Horticultural industries.	Agriculture Victoria
Fruit fly features as a high-profile pest of concern in all of Biosecurity Tasmania's communications. Activities will include timely reminders to the public regarding import requirements and the importance of not introducing fruit flies to Tasmania.	NRE Tas
Undertake community engagement through events including stalls to target backyard growers and at research centres.	NSW DPI
Provide support to grower groups in managing hot spots and increasing public awareness of fruit fly and its control.	NSW DPI
Ensure NSW DPI representatives are involved in the Sunraysia PFA industry meetings leading to greater engagement into the future.	NSW DPI
Facilitate the extension of information through media and personally through Industry Development Officers and LLS Biosecurity and Compliance staff.	NSW DPI

Key Stakeholder Activities	
Activity	Lead/Champion
Further development of newspaper, radio, podcast, web material, social media, articles, other publications, workshops, train the trainer sessions/resources for the general public, "champions" and organisations likely to come across fruit fly in the workplace.	Yarra Valley Fruit Fly Project
Continued development of the fruitflyexamples.com website to enable greater engagement with stakeholders.	Yarra Valley Fruit Fly Project
Ongoing communication of fruit fly related research outcomes, news etc. through the industry's email newsletter, website, quarterly magazine, and roadshows where and when appropriate.	AMIA
Respond to industry enquiries re: incompatibility between Qfly spray requirements to comply with ICA's and export Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) and feedback to GSPFA.	ATGA
Undertake national engagement and extension activities to strengthen fruit fly management in Australia.	PHA
Continue to provide maintenance and support of the Prevent Fruit Fly website to enable successful extension of information.	PHA

## 8. Cooperation

Maintain and enhance engagement processes that coordinate, progress, and improve fruit fly management systems.

A coordinated national system requires cooperation across disciplines and geographic boundaries toward achieving agreed common goals. Industry, government, research, and community forums all raise awareness of fruit fly issues, determine priorities, direct, and provide resources, and monitor progress. Collectively, these forums represent the national system and are fundamental sources of information and influence that must be connected and serve the national interest.

Key Stakeholder Activities	
Activity	Lead/Champion
The Victorian Government is providing funding for four years under Victoria's Fruit Fly Strategy 2021-2025 for Regional Coordinators and area-wide management programs in the three key horticultural areas of the Goulburn Murray Valley, the Yarra Valley and the Greater Sunraysia region.	Agriculture Victoria
Support regional organisations transition the area-wide management program to industry and the community through funding for embedding both information and program activities to provide a legacy for each region.	Agriculture Victoria
Uphold governance structures that serve to support fruit fly management, including PHC, AFFTAC and the NFFC.	DAFF
Contribute to national discussion on fruit fly management through forums such as NFFC activities.	States & Territories
Coordinate fruit fly management within each jurisdiction, including provision of information to stakeholders.	States & Territories
Develop and amend market access protocols in collaboration with other states and territories.	States & Territories
Provide expert advice on AFFTAC and related research projects.	States & Territories