



12 December 2014

## QUEENSLAND FRUIT FLY ON THE INCREASE OVER RECENT WEEKS

Recent rain and favourable conditions have increased Queensland fruit fly (QFly) numbers captured in traps over recent weeks.

Routine bait spraying practices by urban backyard fruit and vegetable growers and commercial growers had contributed to significantly low numbers in previous months.

Riverina Fruit Fly Campaign Coordinator, Tammy Galvin advises that it is an important time to carry out 7-10 day routine protein bait spraying programs.

“All commercial and backyard growers, Councils with QFly host trees, and land managers with QFly host trees are required to either remove trees or carry out routine protein bait spraying programs,” said Ms Galvin.

“QFly is easily spread and growers must take precautions to ensure it is not spread from property to property. The main way that QFly spreads to new areas is by being carried in infested host fruit and vegetables.

“The whole community must work together to ensure the district manages the numbers.”

QFly is native to eastern Queensland and north eastern New South Wales and has spread to urban and horticultural areas in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and the Northern Territory.

To assist in the control of QFly, growers should remove all remaining fruit on trees and on ground daily and place in a plastic bag with the neck tied, then disposed of in garbage bin.

Spray if appropriate and always follow label instructions. Control products can be purchased from your local agricultural supply store.

QFly is a pest that requires everyone to be involved in controlling the insect and restricting its spread. The main way that QFly spreads to new areas is by being carried in infested host fruit and vegetables.

Owners of abandoned orchards should also spray or remove trees if maintenance is not possible.

For more information on managing Qfly in the Riverina contact the Riverina Fruit Fly Campaign Coordinator, Tammy Galvin on 6953 0723.

Image attached – citrus attacked by fruit fly in the past week

**Media contact Tracey Bell 6932 3253 or 0427 043 371**

