

Oriental fruit fly

What is it?

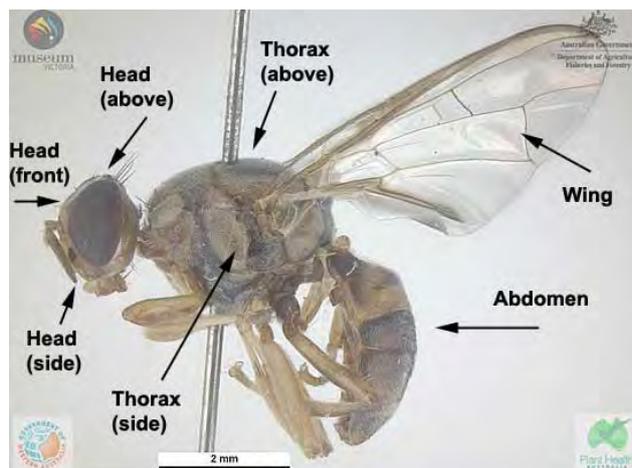
The oriental fruit fly, *Bactrocera dorsalis*, has been recorded on more than 150 kinds of fruit and vegetables, including citrus, mango, papaya, avocado, banana, tomato, apple, passionfruit, pineapple, peach, pear and apricot. Avocado, mango, and papaya are the most commonly attacked. The fly can damage up to 100% of unprotected fruit.

What to look for

The adult oriental fruit fly is approximately 6 to 8 mm long, or slightly larger than the common housefly, with a narrow brown band along the edge of its wings.

The thorax (middle body part) is dark with two prominent, yellow stripes on top and yellow marks on each side. The abdomen is yellowish with a black T-shaped mark.

The female has a serrated-tip ovipositor (tube extending from the back end or underneath), which penetrates the host fruit or vegetable and deposits eggs inside.



Oriental fruit fly with labelled body parts



Adult oriental fruit flies on fruit surface

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Bugwood.org

Female adult oriental fruit fly specimen



Merle Shepard, Gerald R. Carner, and P.A.C. Ooi,
Insects and their Natural Enemies Associated with
Vegetables and Soybean in Southeast Asia,
Bugwood.org

Adult fly on fruit surface, where eggs are then deposited within the fruit



William M. Brown Jr., Bugwood.org

Damage to a papaya caused by the oriental fruit fly

Damage

Larval feeding in fruits causes breakdown of tissues and internal rotting. Infested young fruit becomes distorted, callused and usually drop; mature attacked fruits develop a water soaked appearance.

The larval tunnels provide entry points for bacteria and fungi that cause the fruit to rot.

When only a few larvae develop, damage consists of an unsightly appearance and reduced marketability because of the egg laying punctures or tissue break down due to the decay.

Where is it found?

The oriental fruit fly is widespread throughout much of Asia and the Hawaiian Islands.

How can I protect my orchard from Oriental fruit fly?

Check your farm frequently for the presence of new pests and unusual symptoms. Make sure you are familiar with common pome fruit pests so you can tell if you see something different.

If you see anything unusual, call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881.



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