

Philippine fruit fly

What is the Philippine fruit fly?

The Philippine fruit fly (*Bactrocera philippinensis*) is a tropical fruit fly that attacks a range of fruit including papaya. Like all fruit flies, it can cause a significant amount of damage to fruit and can make fruit unmarketable. This means that if the fruit fly enters Australia it could have a significant impact on papaya growers and other tropical and subtropical fruit industries.

What does it look like?

The Philippine fruit fly has a yellow and black coloured body with a black and tan banded abdomen. It is approximately 8mm long and has clear wings.

What can it be confused with?

At first glance most fruit flies are very similar. The Philippine Fruit Fly belongs to the Oriental fruit fly complex and is difficult for non-entomologists to identify. If you see any unusual fruit flies consult an agronomist or contact the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881.

What should I look for?

The Philippine fruit fly is visible to the naked eye. So you should keep a look out for small yellow-brown coloured flies, especially around fallen or damaged fruit. Traps baited with Methyl eugenol may be useful as they can attract male fruit flies and allow them to be identified. If you see any unusual fruit flies in your orchard contact the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881.



Lateral view of adult fruit fly

Ken Walker Museum Victoria, PaDIL



Dorsal view of adult fruit fly

Ken Walker Museum Victoria, PaDIL



How does it spread?

Adult Philippine fruit fly can disperse over long distances through flight, while the transport of larvae in infested fruit can result in the global movement of the pest.

Where is it now?

As the name suggests the Philippine fruit fly is native to the Philippines. The Philippine fruit fly has also been introduced to Palau (a small country 800km east of the Philippines). The fruit fly is not known to occur in Australia. If it enters Australia many tropical and subtropical fruit producing areas could be put at risk.

How can I protect my orchard from Philippine fly?

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

Maintain good hygiene and ensure that fallen fruit is collected and disposed of so that it can not harbour fruit flies.

If you see anything unusual, call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline



Adult Philippine fruit fly

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