

Papaya fly

What is the Papaya fly?

Papaya fly (*Toxotrypana curvicauda*) is a small fruit fly that specifically attacks papaya fruit. Losses of up to 30% have been recorded in Florida, meaning that it poses a significant risk to papaya growers and the papaya industry in Australia.

What does it look like?

The Papaya fly is a yellow-brown coloured fly. It is approximately 8-12.5mm long. Females possess a long ovipositor, 11-13.5mm, the most diagnostic feature of the Papaya Fly.

What can it be confused with?

At first glance most fruit flies are very similar. The Papaya fly is able to be distinguished from other species by the female's long ovipositor, but an expert is required for correct identification to a species level. 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 Papaya fly is visible to the naked eye and can be identified by its yellow-brown colour and long ovipositor. If you think you see something that could be a Papaya fly it should be reported as soon as possible. Any unusual insects, particularly fruit flies, should be reported as they pose significant risks to fruit producers in Australia.

How does it spread?

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



Female Papaya fly. Note long ovipositor

Jeffrey W. Lotz, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Bugwood.org



Females laying eggs on papaya fruit

Florida Division of Plant Industry Archive, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Bugwood.org



The Papaya fly can be identified by its long ovipositor which is approximately the same length as the fly's body

Jeffrey W. Lotz, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Bugwood.org



Where is it now?

The Papaya fly is found in tropical and subtropical areas of the Americas where papayas are grown, and has been reported from southern USA south to Venezuela. It is not known to occur in Australia.

How can I protect my orchard from Papaya flies?

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 cannot harbour fruit flies.

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

**EXOTIC PLANT PEST HOTLINE
1800 084 881**



Adult Papaya fruit fly on papaya fruit

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Adult female laying eggs in developing papaya

Florida Division of Plant Industry Archive, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Bugwood.org

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