

Oriental fruit fly

Bactrocera dorsalis

Which crops does it affect?

The Oriental fruit fly has over 300 hosts including sweet cherry, sour cherry, Surinam cherry (*Eugenia uniflora*), Spanish cherry (*Mimusops elengi*), Jamaica cherry (*Muntingia calabura*). Other hosts of the fly include apple, pear, plum, peach, mango, banana, cashew, capsicum, citrus, pawpaw, cucumber, giant pumpkin, passionfruit, coffee, avocado, Japanese apricot, melon, Japanese plum, European pear, oriental pear and aubergine.

What does it look like?

- The eggs of *Bactrocera dorsalis* are very small (0.8 mm long and 0.2 mm wide) and will not normally be seen with the naked eye.
- The third-instar of *B. dorsalis* larvae are 7.5–10.0 mm long and 1.5–2.0 mm wide
- Puparium are white to yellow-brown, and approximately 60–80% the length of the larva.
- Adults have a clear wing membrane, except for a narrow costal band (band on outer edge of wing), which is colourless.
- The scutum (back surface of fly behind head and between the wings) is generally black with a yellow scutellum (the triangle on the bottom edge of the scutum).
- The colour of scutum varies in *B. dorsalis* from generally black, with an extensive lanceolate red-brown pattern, to almost entirely red-brown. Populations from the Indian subcontinent and Africa have extensive pale markings whereas specimens from Asia east of Myanmar mostly have dark scutum.

For help on identifying fruit flies, go to fruitflyidentification.org.au

Which part of the plant will be damaged?

Fruit.

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What should I look for?

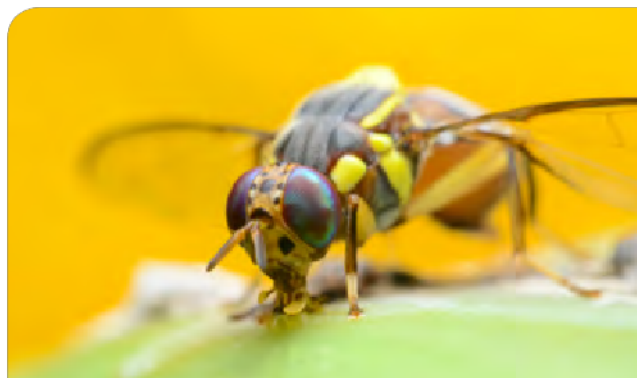
When adult females lay their eggs, they pierce the skin of the fruit; this is known as oviposition. Following oviposition there may be some tissue death around the puncture mark. This is followed by decomposition of the fruit. Symptoms therefore include fruit collapse, black or brown lesions on the fruit and premature fruit drop. Suspect fruit should be cut open and checked for larvae.

Larval identification is difficult, so if time allows, mature larvae should be transferred to saw dust (or similar dry medium) to allow for the formation of puparium. Upon emergence, adult flies must be fed with sugar and water for several days to allow hardening and full colour to develop, before they can be identified.

How does it spread?

Oriental fruit fly spreads via flying, hitchhiking, infested fruit and growing media.

Be aware that there are established and endemic fruit flies in Australia. If you find a fruit fly which causes more damage than normal or does not respond to the usual management strategies including chemical controls or use of beneficial insects you should call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881.



Adult Oriental fruit fly.

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