

THE NATIONAL FRUIT FLY COUNCIL



The National Fruit Fly Council brings together government, growers and research funders to develop a national approach to managing Mediterranean fruit fly and Queensland fruit fly across Australia.

The National Fruit Fly Council has been established to oversee implementation of the National Fruit Fly Strategy and to drive delivery of a cost-effective and sustainable approach to managing fruit flies across Australia.

The Council seeks to influence and support fruit fly management efforts being undertaken by across Australia by promoting awareness of the National Fruit Fly Strategy, identifying priority work, maintaining oversight of how recommendations are put into practice and boosting coordination of efforts.

The Council also works to publicise these efforts and improve access to fruit fly management information for all stakeholders, from individuals growing produce for personal use, through to the largest of Australia's horticultural industries.

COORDINATION OF FRUIT FLY ACTIVITIES

There is a wide range of parties investing in fruit fly research and development, extension, management, and market access work. These include universities, state governments, industry groups, research agencies, commercial parties, and the Australian Government. Fruit flies also affect home gardeners and communities.

Recognising the breadth of activities underway along with future challenges, it is the goal of the National Fruit Fly Strategy to improve the way fruit flies are managed in Australia. Part of this task includes identifying the key areas for future investment, and to ensure efforts were coordinated without duplication.

REPRESENTATION ON THE COUNCIL

The Council consists of representatives from industry, state government, research funding bodies, and the Australian Government and is convened through Plant Health Australia, the national coordinator of the government-industry partnership for plant biosecurity in Australia.

The combined experience of members of the Council ensures that the group understands and considers different crop types and fruit fly management systems from across Australia's horticulture production regions, as well as research capacity, and market access issues.

Council members also have direct experience with the in-field management of both Mediterranean fruit fly and Queensland fruit fly.

HOW WILL THE COUNCIL ACHIEVE ITS GOALS?

Because of the broad representation on the Council, it has strong links with a number of key growing regions and agencies that deal with fruit fly management. Where a specific priority or need is determined, whether it is in-field controls, market access policies, or protecting Australia from exotic pests, the Council's members are able to take this priority directly to the responsible agency or group. The Council's grower representatives are also a key link to ensure that the priorities and actions will deliver for horticultural producers.

The Council has appointed a National Manager who is responsible for driving its activities and will work with stakeholders and interested parties who don't have strong links with the Council's membership.

In addition to supporting existing efforts, the Council will work to publicise and improve access to fruit fly management information for all stakeholders. The audience for this information ranges from individuals growing produce for personal use, through to the largest of Australia's horticultural industries.



PHA has established preventfruitfly.com.au for the Council to improve access to information on fruit fly management

THE IMPACT OF FRUIT FLIES ON HORTICULTURE

Australia's horticultural production is valued at over \$9 billion and employs approximately 60,000 people. Two species of fruit fly threaten the profitability and sustainability of Australia's horticultural industries. They can restrict access to domestic and international markets and require costly in-field and post-harvest treatments.

Mediterranean fruit fly (which occurs only in parts of Western Australia) and Queensland fruit fly (which occurs in the Northern Territory, Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria) are the two pest species. These species can attack a wide range of host plants across many regions in Australia and a problem in one crop or an urban area can easily affect other crops in the region. Therefore, a coordinated approach to managing these pests is paramount.

For further information on the National Fruit Fly Council contact the PHA office on 02 6215 7700 or email fruitfly@phau.com.au. Full details on the National Fruit Fly Strategy and the Implementation Action Plan can be obtained at preventfruitfly.com.au.

If you suspect an exotic fruit fly or other new plant pest, report it immediately to the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline 1800 084 881.

