

Managing fruit fly in Victoria

Action Plan 2015-2020



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Introduction

Fruit flies are a significant threat to Victoria's horticulture industry, affecting production and disrupting trade worldwide.

Species such as Queensland fruit fly, are present in Victoria and need effective management to reduce the impact on production and trade opportunities. Victoria also needs to manage the risk of exotic flies, such as Mediterranean fruit fly (Medfly) to prevent their establishment and prove freedom to trading partners.

The Victorian Government acknowledges the impact and potential risks of fruit flies and as a result, in partnership with industry and community, has developed the *Managing Fruit Fly in Victoria: Action Plan 2015-2020* (the State-wide Action Plan). The State-wide Action Plan aims to identify key actions required in fruit fly management across Victoria, with a focus on implementation in the first year, and outlines responsibilities for industry, community and local/state governments. The State-wide Action Plan recognises that all stakeholders share responsibilities for fruit fly management and need to work together to reduce the impacts of fruit fly on horticulture productivity, quality and market access opportunities. The State-wide Action Plan will allow for a coordinated and collaborative approach to fruit fly management and empower industry and community to take the lead on fruit fly control programs across Victoria.

This five year State-wide Action Plan focuses on three action areas:

- I. Strengthening the co-ordination and collaboration of fruit fly management.
- II. Improving the management of fruit fly.
- III. Enabling intrastate, interstate and international trade.



As part of the State-wide Action Plan, Regional Action Plans will be developed. These plans will be regionally specific, align with the State-wide Action Plan and include the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders (industry, community, local and state governments) at the local level. Regional Action Plans will coordinate all stakeholder contributions and actions (existing and new) at the local level and include:

- commercial and urban/community monitoring and control programs
- communication and engagement plans, including education programs (e.g. Ground Up)
- government regulation and compliance programs
- research priorities
- review frequency.

Regional governance groups will also be established to support and guide the development and implementation of the Regional Action Plans.

The State-wide Action Plan aligns to the National Fruit Fly Strategy and will continue to be informed as the National Fruit Fly Strategy and Regional Action Plans evolve over the next five years. The Victorian Fruit Fly Advisory Committee will be established with members from industry, local and state governments to oversee the implementation of the State-wide Action Plan and act as a channel for information and advice between governments, Victorian Fruit Fly Advisory Committee members, industry groups and regions. The Victorian Fruit Fly Advisory Committee will provide strategic advice and high level guidance on fruit fly management and report on the delivery of the State-wide Action Plan and respective Regional Action Plans.

Through the delivery of this State-wide Action Plan, all stakeholders, industry, community and government (Commonwealth, State and Local) will work together to enhance and improve the management of fruit fly and horticulture production, and optimise trade opportunities for the different regions of Victoria.

Action area 1: Strengthen fruit fly management through coordination and collaboration

Overview

Industry, community and government all have a shared responsibility for managing fruit fly in Victoria. It is important that all stakeholders take ownership of fruit fly management, contribute to a proactive approach and work together to improve coordination at the regional, state and national levels.

With the establishment of state and Regional Action Plans and governance groups, Victoria will form partnerships across industry, community and all levels of government to share information and ensure the long term, effective management of fruit fly.

Outcome

Industry, community and government are clear on their roles and responsibilities and work together to manage fruit fly in Victoria.

Action 1.1 Develop partnerships between industry, community and government to ensure communication, cooperation, feedback and sustainable long term funding for fruit fly management

Deliverables	Responsibilities				Year
	I	SG	LG	C	
a) Roles and responsibilities are defined and documented	●	●	●	●	1
b) The Victorian Fruit Fly Advisory Committee is established to oversee the implementation of the State-wide Action Plan and Terms of Reference are agreed	●	●	●	●	1
c) State-wide Coordinator is appointed and funded to facilitate the delivery of the State-wide Action Plan	○	●	○	○	1

Lead
 Contribute
 Support
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Action 1.2 Develop and implement a joint communication and engagement program (including a central information hub)

Deliverables	Responsibilities				Year
	I	SG	LG	C	
<p>a) An agreed fruit fly communications and engagement plan for Victoria is developed and implemented with oversight from the Victorian Fruit Fly Advisory Committee including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consistent key messages • seasonal media programs (timed and targeted releases) • tailored and targeted community education and awareness campaigns incorporating elements of 'Ground Up' (including school programs, field days) 	●	●	●	●	1
<p>b) A central information hub is developed to provide all stakeholders with access to information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fruit fly impacts • fruit fly management roles and responsibilities • fruit fly regulation and compliance systems • current best practice control and surveillance options • links to current export systems for domestic and international trade • research and development outcomes on new treatment and control options and export systems for domestic and international trade • media releases • traveller responsibilities • maps showing fruit fly distribution across Victoria • links to relevant national and industry groups 	●	●	●	●	1-5

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Action 1.3 Develop and implement regionally specific fruit fly action plans which all stakeholders contribute to and own

Deliverables	Responsibilities				Year
	I	SG	LG	C	
a) Industry chaired, regional governance groups including industry, community, local and state government representatives are established in key horticultural production areas (e.g. Greater Sunraysia and Goulburn Valley) to support and guide the development and implementation of Regional Action Plans	●	●	●	●	1
b) Regional coordinators are appointed and funded to support the development and delivery of the Regional Action Plans	●	●	●	●	1
c) Regional Action Plans are developed in key horticultural production areas (e.g. Greater Sunraysia, Goulburn Valley and Yarra Valley). Regional Action Plans will be regionally specific and aligned to the State-wide Action Plan and may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • roles and responsibilities of stakeholders • commercial and urban/community monitoring and control programs • communication and engagement plans including education programs e.g. Ground Up • government regulation and compliance programs • research priorities • review frequency 	●	●	●	●	1
d) Regional Action Plans delivery commenced in key horticultural production areas	●	●	●	●	1-5
e) Progress is reported quarterly against the Regional Action Plans via the regional governance groups and Victorian Fruit Fly Advisory Committee	●	●	●	○	1-5

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Action 1.4 Ensure Victoria is aligned with and contributes to the national program

Deliverables	Responsibilities				Year
	I	SG	LG	C	
a) Victorian Government is represented at key national forums including National Fruit Fly Strategy Advisory Committee, Plant Health Committee, Subcommittee on Domestic Quarantine and Market Access and communicates outcomes and activities at the national level through the Victorian Fruit Fly Advisory Committee and the information hub	●	●	●	○	1-5
d) Victorian industry is represented on relevant national plant health and market access groups including Plant Health Australia and communicates outcomes and activities at the national level through the regional governance groups and industry-specific websites	●	○	○	○	1-5
c) Victorian Government contributes to the development of national fruit fly standards, systems and protocols	●	●	●	○	1-5
d) National Fruit Fly Strategy Advisory Committee demonstrates support for State wide Action Plan and Regional Action Plans and is informed of Victoria's requirements	●	●	●	○	1-5
e) Victoria's State-wide Action Plan is consistent with the National Fruit Fly Strategy, initiatives of the National Fruit Fly Strategy Advisory Committee and the National Fruit Fly Research, Development and Extension Plan	●	●	●	○	1-5

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Action 1.5 Improve exchange of surveillance information between Victoria, other jurisdictions and industry to improve fruit fly control and coordination

Deliverables	Responsibilities				Year
	I	SG	LG	C	
a) Interstate government meetings are held annually to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • share information on fruit fly control and surveillance activities between jurisdictions • enable multi-beneficial arrangements (e.g. Trapbase) • enable coordination on research and development opportunities • build interstate border control programs that are aligned, fit for purpose and cost effective 					1-5
b) Legislation is reviewed and common agreements are developed in order to share fruit fly surveillance information between stakeholders					1

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Action area 2: Improve fruit fly management in commercial orchards and communities

Overview

In order to make improvements to fruit fly management, it is important that the best practice management options are made available and implemented by all stakeholders in alignment with Regional Action Plans. Continuous improvement in surveillance, treatment and controls will be realised through co-funded research and development and appropriate enforcement of regulation will be implemented to encourage the compliance of all stakeholders.

Outcome

Management of fruit fly is enhanced for the different regions of Victoria.

Action 2.1 Review and implement the current best practice control and surveillance options for fruit fly management

Deliverables	Responsibilities				Year
	I	SG	LG	C	
a) Current best practice techniques for control and surveillance are reviewed, identified and communicated (via action 1.2)	●	●	●	●	1-5
b) Current best practice fruit fly management is implemented in commercial orchards in accordance with Regional Action Plans	●	○	○	○	1-5
c) Current best practice fruit fly management is implemented in back yards and communities in accordance with Regional Action Plans	○	○	●	●	1-5
d) Current best practice fruit fly management is implemented on public land in accordance with Regional Action Plans via a risk-based approach	○	●	●	○	1-5

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Action 2.2 Conduct the required research and development to improve fruit fly control and surveillance options

Deliverables	Responsibilities				Year
	I	SG	LG	C	
a) Research gaps are identified in current control and surveillance techniques with consideration of the National Fruit Fly Research, Development and Extension Plan	●	●	○	○	1-5
b) Scientifically valid research and development is commissioned to develop new control and surveillance techniques that are relevant to Victoria in alignment with the National Fruit Fly Research, Development and Extension Plan and Horticulture Innovation Australia	●	●	○	○	1-5

Action 2.3 Establish and maintain an adequate regulation and compliance system to ensure responsibilities are met

Deliverables	Responsibilities				Year
	I	SG	LG	C	
a) A review of government regulation and compliance systems is undertaken to ensure they are relevant, responsive, targeted to key risk areas and fit for purpose	○	●	●	○	1-5
b) Encourage compliance and implement enforcement where necessary	○	●	●	○	1-5

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Action area 3: Enable intrastate, interstate and international trade

Overview

The Victorian horticultural industry has a farm gate value estimated at approximately \$2.4 billion and accounts for 52 per cent of Australia's horticultural exports, making it an integral part of our regional and rural communities and economies. Having contemporary and effective treatment and export options for fruit fly is critical to maintaining and increasing market access. Industry and government play a critical role in enabling trade through ensuring fruit is free from fruit fly and/or treated appropriately and in negotiating and advocating for market access.

Outcome

Trade opportunities for the different regions in Victoria are optimised.



Action 3.1 Conduct targeted research and development on current and new treatments and export systems for fruit fly

Deliverables	Responsibilities				Year
	I	SG	LG	C	
a) The current treatment and export systems for domestic and international trade are identified, reviewed and communicated (via action 1.2)	●	●	○	○	1-5
I. Project: “Review of the Greater Sunraysia Pest Free Area Status” to develop an understanding of the current status, identify gaps and issues in current management strategies and develop a road map for future fruit fly management for domestic and international market access	●	●	●	○	1
b) Gaps in existing treatment and export systems for trade are identified	●	●	○	○	1-5
c) Conduct market research on importing country preferences for fruit fly treatment and export systems	●	●	○	○	1-5
d) Research and development opportunities for new treatment and export systems (e.g. low dose methyl bromide, irradiation, cold treatment, systems approach, pest free places of production and application of SITplus) are prioritised via the Victorian Fruit Fly Advisory Committee in alignment with the National Fruit Fly Research, Development and Extension Plan and Horticulture Innovation Australia where relevant	●	●	○	○	1-5
I. Project: “Development of alternative options for export via airfreight to Thailand and the Philippines”	●	●	●	○	1
e) Scientifically valid research and development is undertaken to develop new treatment and export systems	●	●	○	○	1-5
f) Victorian freedom from exotic fruit fly species is validated to support trade negotiations	●	●	○	○	1-5
I. Project: “Improve diagnostics of south-eastern Australian fruit flies of trade and/or biosecurity concern in Victoria”	●	●	○	○	1-3
II. Project: “Review of Victoria’s trapping and area freedom activities for Mediterranean fruit fly”	○	●	○	○	1-2
III. Project: “Review of Pest Free Area protocol trapping program for Queensland fruit fly”	●	●	○	○	1

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Action 3.2 Utilise treatments and systems for trade in domestic/international market access negotiations

Deliverables	Responsibilities				Year
	I	SG	LG	C	
a) New treatment and export systems are finalised for use in domestic and international negotiations					1-5
b) Work with The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources and the Subcommittee on Domestic Quarantine and Market Access to inform and influence negotiations for practical and workable domestic and international trade arrangements for Victorian industries using newly developed treatment and export systems					1-5
c) Negotiated trade arrangements are implemented and supported by industry groups					1-5

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Definitions

Community: A very broad term to define a group of people, whether they are stakeholders, interest groups or citizen groups etc. A community may be a geographic location (a community of place), a group of similar interest (a community of practice) or a group of affiliation or identity (such as an industry or sporting club)¹.

Contribute: Refers to those stakeholders who will assist in the delivery of the relevant action in alignment with the lead stakeholder. This may include funding or co-funding of activities or in-kind contribution of resources and time as negotiated and agreed to by the Regional Governance Group and reflected in the Regional Action Plans.

DEDJTR: Victorian Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources.

Ground Up: A community engagement campaign in the Goulburn Valley region of Victoria to bring growers and gardeners in the community together to manage fruit fly.

ICA: Interstate Certification Assurance. A national scheme administered by all states and territories. It is a system of plant health certification based on quality management principle.

Industry: Stakeholders involved in commercial horticulture production. These may be businesses or peak industry bodies/representatives.

Lead: Refers to the primary stakeholder responsible for the implementation of the relevant action. This may include funding or co-funding of activities or in-kind contribution of resources and time. Identified stakeholders will also contribute or support the implementation of the actions.

Local government: The administrative body for a small geographic area, with representatives elected by those residing in the area.

Medfly: Mediterranean fruit fly (*Ceratitis capitata*).

Pest Free Area: An area in which a specific pest is absent as demonstrated by scientific evidence and in which, where appropriate, this condition is being officially maintained².

Pest Free Place of Production: A place of production in which a specific pest is absent as demonstrated by scientific evidence and in which, where appropriate, this condition is being officially maintained for a defined period².

Plant Health Australia: The national coordinator of the government-industry partnership for plant biosecurity in Australia.

¹ Department of Sustainability and Environment, Victoria (2005). *Effective engagement: building relationships with community and other stakeholders. 'Book 1: an introduction to engagement'*, Melbourne

² International standards for phytosanitary measure, ISPM 5, *Glossary of phytosanitary terms* (2015)

Plant Health Committee: Supports the National Biosecurity Council by providing strategic policy, technical and regulatory advice on plant biosecurity matters. It also guides a range of organisations through the establishment of national standards, and facilitates a consistent national approach to legislative outcomes and standards within the plant biosecurity sector.

Queensland fruit fly: (*Bactrocera tryoni*).

Regional Action Plans: Regionally specific fruit fly action plans will be developed for key horticulture production areas and will include the roles, responsibilities and actions of all stakeholders in fruit fly management in a defined region.

Regional Coordinators: A coordinator will be appointed in key horticulture production areas to support the development and delivery of the regions Regional Action Plans. The coordinators will be represented on the regional governance groups and provide a linkage for the governance group to the state government and deliver extension, engagement, communication and compliance activities.

Regional Governance Groups: Industry-led groups established in the key horticulture production areas to support and guide the development and implementation of Regional Action Plans. Groups will include representation from industry, community, local and state governments, and co-ordinate the delivery of the Regional Action Plans and local resources.

Subcommittee on Domestic Quarantine and Market

Access: Ensures that the development of domestic market access conditions for plants and plant products in Australia are technically justified, harmonised and consistent with Australia's international import and export market access conditions and policies.

Stakeholder: Individual and/or group with an interest in an organisation's activity and/or outcomes. They may be internal or external to the organisation and may be direct or indirect beneficiaries of the activity or outcome (e.g. processors, packers, wholesalers, exporters, transport companies)¹.

State government: Victorian State Government departments and their representatives.

State-wide Coordinator: A coordinator will be appointed to support the overall delivery of the State-wide Action Plan.

Support: Refers to those stakeholders who will support and advocate the delivery of the relevant actions.

Trapbase: A Victorian Government online database for recording fruit fly trap locations, monitoring and mapping of fruit fly detections.

Victorian Fruit Fly Advisory Committee: A Committee established to oversee the implementation of the State-wide Action Plan and act as a link between industry, government and community for sharing information and providing advice on fruit fly management.

¹ Department of Sustainability and Environment, Victoria (2005). *Effective engagement: building relationships with community and other stakeholders. 'Book 1: an introduction to engagement'*, Melbourne

