



By Carl Collen

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## Plant & Food spreads word on Qfly



Science company hosting workshops this week to discuss management and future strategy for pest

To manage the threat of Queensland fruit fly (Qfly), a serious horticultural pest in Australia and one of the most important biosecurity threats to the horticultural industry in New Zealand, Plant & Food Research and Better Border Biosecurity (B3) are hosting scientists and biosecurity operatives from Australia's Plant Biosecurity Cooperative Research Centre (PBCRC) and SITplus this week for workshops, meetings and tours.

The workshops will coincide with a meeting of the recently formed New Zealand Fruit Fly Council – a collaboration under the Government Industry Agreement (GIA) between Government and a number of industry groups acting as the operational body for fruit fly response and management.

The workshops will include a review of past and current research on invasive fruit fly and look to identify priorities for future research.

Topics to be discussed include surveillance, detection and trapping, risk assessment, and management methods such as Sterile

“Both Australia and New Zealand have a strong interest in managing or eradicating exotic fruit fly,” said B3 Director Dr David Teulon. “It’s rare to have such a varied group of research, government and industry representatives from both sides of the Tasman at the same meeting, and so we expect the workshops will create a positive platform for discussion and information sharing.

“By coordinating our scientific efforts we can help develop applied solutions for dealing with this pest and preventing its establishment in New Zealand,” he added.

Although traditionally found in Queensland and New South Wales, Australian scientists studying Qfly have noticed the population establishing itself further south in Victoria. It has been suggested that this may be due, in part, to a changing climate producing longer warm seasons and a reduction in cold events.

“Factors such as climate change, along with increasing and evolving trade and

tourism, pose ongoing challenges around biosecurity, requiring forward-thinking and vigilance, and Qfly is no exception,” noted Plant & Food Research Science Group leader professor Max Suckling.

B3 is a multi-partner, cooperative science collaboration that researches ways to reduce the entry and establishment of new plant pests and diseases in New Zealand, and is aligned to New Zealand's Biological Heritage National Science Challenge.

The PBCRC is a collaborative research network of 27 participating organisations from Australia and around the world that develops and deploys scientific knowledge, tools and resources to strengthen plant biosecurity RD&E and capacity. Plant & Food Research is one of only two New Zealand members.

SITplus is a collaboration of research, regulatory and funding agencies that have joined forces to develop the use of Sterile Insect Technique (SIT) for the management of Qfly.

Insect Technique and lure and kill treatments.

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<http://www.fruitnet.com/americafruit/article/1474/parts-of-san-diego-quarantined-as-psyllid-count-mounts>

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