

Trapping program for Oriental Fruit Moth in cherries 2026-27

Purpose

Fruit Growers Tasmania is coordinating an Oriental Fruit Moth (OFM) trapping program in cherry orchards for 2026-27. This is to support our proposal to the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) in Western Australia to establish a treatment free trade pathway for cherries from Tasmania.

Growers are encouraged to participate in the trapping program regardless of whether you wish to trade with Western Australia or not.

Background

For industry to prosecute a favourable case for a systems approach to manage OFM, we need to indicate the level of pest prevalence and demonstrate good management practices in cherry orchards and packhouses.

DPIRD is currently considering the operational procedure (proposal) that has been prepared by Biosecurity Tasmania and Fruit Growers Tasmania on behalf of industry. The procedure requires trapping for OFM during the growing and harvesting season.

If within the coming months, the operational procedure is accepted by DPIRD then growers who have participated in the trapping program will be in a position to send fruit without treatment to Western Australia. Of course, there is no guarantee that DPIRD will accept the operational procedure in time for the 2026-27 season and even then, they may make amendments to the proposal. However, it is best to make a start on the trapping for this season.

You can read more about [a small trapping program was facilitated in 2025](#).

Registration

Growers will need to indicate their participation in the trapping program, by submitting a [registration form](#). Once registered, Fruit Growers Tasmania will provide further guidance on the trapping regime and a trap record template. This will enable growers to record trapping results and Fruit Growers Tasmania to collate trapping record data for the season that can be used as part of the evidence of OFM pest pressure.

If you wish to participate then this form must be completed and submitted no later than **COB Sunday 13 September 2026**. Any changes to the registration must be sent to trade@fruitgrowerstas.org.au in writing/email as soon as possible.

If you are having any difficulty completing the form or have any queries, please contact Grace @ Fruit Growers Tasmania on 0408 987 624 or grace@fruitgrowerstas.org.au.

Trapping Requirements

In relation to the OFM trapping program, the grower is responsible for the cost of purchasing and monitoring the OFM traps.

- Only accredited crop monitor can install traps and undertake trap checking. The crop monitor must have successfully completed the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) training modules and received their certificate for 2026-27.
- The trapping program must be implemented **by bud burst** and operate until the end of harvest. Traps are required on all blocks that are participating in this program.
- Traps must be distributed at a density of:
 - one (1) per five (5) hectares, with at least two (2) traps per block
 - install traps at $\geq 3-4$ rows inside block boundary, approx. 50–60 m apart, ≥ 10 m from other traps, positioned at eye level to upper third of canopy ($\approx 1.5-2.0$ m)
- Only OFM pheromone lure and sticky bases are replaced in each trap every four (4) weeks, as per the manufacturer's instructions.
- All traps are checked and maintained by the crop monitor every week, with the number of moths recorded on the trap record sheet provided by Fruit Growers Tasmania.
- OFM trapping results must be provided to Fruit Growers Tasmania on a weekly basis.
- Trap checks by the Crop Monitor must start no later than Sunday 20 September 2026.
- The crop monitor must conduct a visual inspection that includes:
 - inspection of one (1) sentinel tree per hectare every seven (7) days for signs and symptoms of OFM
 - inspection of surrounding host weed growth for signs of OFM
 - recording of inspection results.
- If the grower also operates a packhouse then there will need to be traps for OFM placed outside the packhouse. Specifically:
 - not more than 100m from each end of the Packhouse
 - using a OFM Pheromone lure and sticky bases and replaced as per the manufacturer's instructions
 - checked weekly & records kept.

Requirement to act

- Any suspect OFM from traps must be submitted to the Department's Plant Diagnostic Services for identification
- Corrective action must be taken if any OFM is trapped or any live life stage is detected in the orchard with the use of chemicals or biologicals.

Detection and identification of OFM

Any suspected OFM (including all life stages) must be forwarded to [Plant Diagnostic Services](#) (Biosecurity Tasmania) for formal identification by a qualified entomologist within 24 hours of the being detected. Plant Diagnostic Services have laboratories in Hobart, Launceston and Devonport.

Steps:

1. Send a photo - initial photo(s) of suspect OFM can be submitted for screening purposes. Please ensure photos are clear and in focus. Include date collected, collector, collection location, a sample contact (this may be different to collector) and attached photos in an email submission to Plantdiagnosticservices@nre.tas.gov.au.
2. Send in the specimen moth(s). Remove the moth(s) on sticky lure from the trap. Place the lure (or the whole trap) and the specimen(s) in a large zip lock bag or wrap in cling wrap to protect it. Keep sample cool and dry during transport and do not squash traps as squashed moths become unidentifiable. To help protect specimens, zip lock bags can be sealed and inflated slightly.
3. The specimen should be forwarded, by secure means (i.e. in person or courier), to a qualified entomologist within 24 hours of the sample being taken.
 - For larvae, it is important to submit initial photo(s) as detailed above for screening purposes as specimens can rapidly lose colour once preserved. Larvae specimens should be placed in sturdy vials or specimen jars containing ethanol (80%), methylated spirits (80%), isopropyl alcohol (80%) or white vinegar.
 - Pupae are unlikely to be found in fruit, if they are please contact Plant Diagnostic Services (entomology) for advice.
4. Samples should be placed in a sturdy transport container and must include a completed sample [submission form](#).
5. Ensure the following information is included:
 - client details (this is the person responsible for the invoice and may be different from the collector), including business name and ABN for invoicing purposes
 - date collected
 - collector
 - collection location.
5. Send or deliver to one of the following addresses:

New Town Laboratories

Delivery address: 13 St Johns Avenue, New Town, TAS 7008

Postal Address: GPO Box 44, HOBART TAS 7001

Launceston - Mt Pleasant Laboratories

Delivery address: 165 Westbury Road, Prospect, TAS 7250

Postal Address: PO Box 46 Kings Meadows, TAS 7249

Devonport - Stony Rise Government Offices

Delivery address: Rundle Road, Stony Rise, TAS 7310

Postal Address: PO Box 303 Devonport, TAS 7310

Note: If photos of the same sample have been submitted via email, ensure the date collected, collector and location on the submission form matches that provided in the email. This is to ensure a photo of a fresh specimen can be linked to a preserved sample in case colours or other features have faded.

Any enquiries regarding sample submission should be emailed to

Plantdiagnosticservices@nre.tas.gov.au.



Adult oriental fruit moth (Chrissy McClarren & Andy Reago, 2020(CC 0))

Oriental Fruit Moth (*Grapholita molesta*)

Pest of concern for: Philippines*, Vietnam*, Canada*, India*.

*Nil in-field monitoring requirements for these markets.

Description:

- Adult moths are mottled grey, with brown wing tips, and up to 13mm in wingspan.
- Pupation occurs in cocoons on lower trunks or in surrounding debris.
- Larvae are creamy pink with a black head and grow up to 12mm in length. They look similar to codling moth larvae.
- Eggs are laid on the upper surfaces of leaves and new shoots. The eggs are circular or oval-shaped and approximately 6mm in length.