

## Pilot treatment free program for cherries to Western Australia

### Overview

Following changes to Western Australia's import requirements for cherries in April 2024, Fruit Growers Tasmania is exploring the options for reinstatement of a treatment free pathway to Western Australia.

Under the current system, Western Australia requires that cherry fruit for import from Tasmania:

- is grown in a state free from Oriental Fruit Moth as evidenced by an Area Freedom Certificate; or
- is treated with either fumigation or irradiation; or
- has been grown and packed in an area of low pest prevalence for Oriental Fruit Moth, as approved by the exporting jurisdiction and approved by Western Australia.

Tasmania is reported to have Oriental Fruit Moth (*Grapholita molesta*) therefore it is not possible to secure an Area Freedom Certificate. As Tasmanian growers are seeking a treatment free pathway for cherries, Fruit Growers Tasmania performed a risk analysis and identified risk management strategies to inform the design of a treatment free program to demonstrate low pest prevalence.

Areas of low pest prevalence programs consist of surveillance to verify low pest prevalence and management procedures when thresholds are exceeded, agreed upon by both the exporting and importing jurisdictions. Low pest prevalence programs are recognised by the CSIRO's Risk Reduction Objectives as a measure to minimise exposure to pests.

This document details the initial requirements for the establishment of a pilot program to be implemented in the 2025/26 growing season. Together with the risk analysis, these documents will form the basis of a trade agreement to be put to Biosecurity Tasmania for approval as the exporting jurisdiction and then, if agreed, submitted to Western Australia for consideration.

These initial requirements detail the first steps for participation in and implementation of a surveillance regime. Once this has been implemented, documentation of additional processes such as thresholds, auditing and inspection will be developed.

It is important to note that the specifications in this pilot program may not necessarily be the same as the trade agreement proposed to Western Australia. It may also not be accepted by Western Australia.

The aim of this pilot program is to help facilitate initial access in the 2025/26 season. It aims in part to assess pest prevalence in Tasmanian orchards and relies on existing

systems and measures implemented by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) for accredited export protocols.

It is intended that in the future the proposal to Western Australia will be less trade restrictive and accessible to all growers not only those currently accredited for trade to protocol markets.

Participation in this pilot does not guarantee market access to Western Australia in the 2025/26 season. This is dependent on a trade agreement being finalised with Western Australia for this season.

Fruit Growers Tasmania is now calling for applications to participate in the pilot program for the 2025/26 season.

The initial requirements for the pilot program are as follows.

1. Accredited blocks
  - a. Blocks must be accredited for 2025/26 by DAFF to a cherry protocol market e.g. China, Japan, Korea and/or Thailand.
2. Accredited packhouses
  - a. Packhouses must be accredited for 2025/26 by DAFF to a cherry protocol market e.g. China, Japan, Korea and/ or Thailand.
3. Accredited crop monitors
  - a. Crop monitors must be registered by DAFF as approved cherry crop monitors for 2025/26.
4. Crop monitoring
  - a. Registered crop monitors must conduct crop monitoring in accordance with the [DAFF Performance standards for crop monitors](#).
  - b. A Pest Factsheet for Oriental Fruit Moth is available here: [Oriental fruit moth](#).
5. Trapping for Oriental Fruit Moth
  - a. DAFF registered cherry crop monitors must implement Oriental Fruit Moth trapping on nominated accredited blocks commencing in the week of 20<sup>th</sup> October. Traps must be checked weekly from the week commencing 27<sup>th</sup> October 2025 until the completion of harvest.
  - b. Oriental Fruit Moth pheromone traps (delta traps) must be placed in each block at a density of one trap per four hectares, with at least two traps per block. Traps should be placed at least 3-4 rows in from block boundary, 50-60m apart from each other, at least 10m away from any other traps and at eyeline or in the upper third of the canopy at 1.5-2.0m above the ground.
  - c. The pheromone lure enticement agent to be used must be specific to Oriental Fruit Moth. The pheromone lures must be changed in each trap every four weeks.

- d. Mating disruption for Oriental fruit Moth must not be used in participating blocks.
- 6. Trapping at the packhouse
  - a. Traps must be installed not less than 100m from each end of the packing shed. All traps must be checked and maintained by the Crop Monitor and recorded in the trap record sheet.
- 7. Sample collection

To provide assurance and confidence in correct identification during the pilot program, suspected Oriental Fruit Moth collected in traps must be sent to Biosecurity Tasmania.

Sticky cards must be removed from the traps, preferably protected with wax paper and kept cool and dry during transport.

The transport container must be labelled with details:

- a) name of the person taking the sample
- b) date sample taken
- c) contact details of the business including the email address
- d) situation from which the sample was taken (i.e., orchard, crop, block ID., trap identifier).
- e) any other information as requested by Biosecurity Tasmania.

The specimen must be forwarded, by secure means i.e. delivery, post or courier, to Biosecurity Tasmania within 48 hours of the sample being taken, to one of the following addresses:

- a) Hobart - New Town Laboratories  
Delivery address: 13 St Johns Avenue, New Town, TAS 7008  
Postal Address: PO Box 44 Hobart, TAS 7000
- b) Launceston - Mt Pleasant Laboratories  
Delivery address: 165 Westbury Road, Prospect, TAS 7250  
Postal Address: PO Box 46 Kings Meadows, TAS 7249

Contact details for Biosecurity Tasmania are:

Phone: 03 6165 3777

Email: [PlantDiagnosticServices@nre.tas.gov.au](mailto:PlantDiagnosticServices@nre.tas.gov.au).

The crop monitor must obtain written notification from Biosecurity Tasmania of the outcome of testing, retain a copy with the trap records and forward a copy to Fruit Growers Tasmania.

#### 8. Records

The crop monitor must keep a record of the number of Oriental Fruit Moths trapped in each trap each week. Once completed these records must be sent to Fruit Growers Tasmania every week. These can be emailed to [Grace@fruitgrowerstas.org.au](mailto:Grace@fruitgrowerstas.org.au) or a photo of the trap record sheet can be sent to M: 0408 987 624.

Attached is a template of the trap record sheet to be completed and a pest fact sheet to assist in identification of the pest.

#### 9. Applications

Applications to participate in this pilot program can be made at the following [link](#).

Any queries can be directed to Grace Lamont at Fruit Growers Tasmania on M: 0408 987 624 or [grace@fruitgrowerstas.org.au](mailto:grace@fruitgrowerstas.org.au).