

ALERT

EXOTIC FRUIT FLY

PEST LEAFLET: NO 2

BACTROCERA ZONATA



Bactrocera zonata (Saunders)

Photo Courtesy: Dr Aruna Manrakhan

Fruit flies are the world's most destructive pest of fruit and vegetables, causing millions of dollars worth of damage. Exotic fruit flies present in neighbouring and other countries can enter South Africa and infest commercial crops, causing crop devastation, the loss of fruit export markets or trade disruption and requiring expensive eradication campaigns. Flies can also cause food security concerns if they infest fruit on small-scale farming operations

The peach fruit fly, *Bactrocera zonata* is an economically important pest. In the African region, it has been reported in Egypt, Mauritius and Reunion. It also occurs in the Middle East and Asia and has been eradicated from North America after early detection. The peach fruit fly has many host plants, but prefers mango, peach, guava, apple, papaya, quince, fig, phalsa, bitter gourd, dates, pomegranate, almond and sweet orange. It can establish very easily in South Africa, has a high reproduction rate and is difficult and expensive to control.



agriculture,
forestry & fisheries

Department:
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

The main pathway/route for the spreading of fruit flies from one country to another is through the international movement of infested fruit. Therefore the best way to combat the spread of fruit fly pests would be to stop travelling from one country to another with fruit. According to the Agricultural Pest Act, 1983 (Act 36 of 1983), it is an offence to import plants and plant products into South Africa without authorization. Luggage of passengers arriving in South Africa via its international airport and land border posts is frequently scanned, or sniffer dogs are employed to detect fruit and other plant products.

THE NATIONAL EXOTIC FRUIT FLY SURVEILLANCE PROJECT

Early detection is the best means to achieve speedy and cost-effective eradication. One of the projects of the National Plant Protection Organization of South Africa (NPPOZA), comprised of the directorates Plant Health and the Agricultural Products and Inspection Services in the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries is to establish and maintain a surveillance network as part of an early warning system against exotic fruit fly pests. Fruit fly trapping is conducted by Plant Health officials, APIS inspectors, industry members, research institutes, and universities

This surveillance project started in 2006 and focuses on high-risk areas such as ports of entry, guest houses, municipality parks, farming areas, dumping sites, diplomatic missions, stadiums and next to hotels and beaches, as well as in farming and industrial areas.

NOTICED A NEW PEST?

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