



# QUEENSLAND FRUIT FLY ERADICATION PROGRAM COOLBELLUP 2021 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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# HOST FRUIT TO BE SECURELY PACKAGED, STORED AND TRANSPORTED

Note, this relates to:

- Commercial host produce [grown outside of the quarantine area](#), and moved from the wider quarantine area (the quarantine area that is not within the outbreak area) to other areas within Western Australia.  
*Movements outside of WA are subject to import requirements of the destination country or Australian State or Territory.*
  - a. Host produce needs to be securely packaged, stored and transported while being transported through the quarantine area by meeting one of the following measures:
    - i. **Unvented packages;**
    - ii. Vented packages with the **vents secured with mesh** with a maximum aperture of 1.6 mm;
    - iii. Vented packages enclosing a **liner bag or liner sheet that obscure vent holes;**
    - iv. Packages, bins or palletised units fully enclosed under **plastic wrap, tarpaulins, hessian, mesh or other coverings** which provide a maximum aperture of 1.6 mm;

Fully enclosed or screened **buildings, cold-rooms, vehicles or other facilities free from gaps** or other entry points greater than 1.6mm;

## SECURE CONDITIONS

### What does secure conditions mean?

Secure conditions means ensuring that fruit fly host produce is kept free of Queensland fruit fly should it be present in the Quarantine Area. Details of approved secure conditions can be found on the DPIRD website and include fly-proof packaging or coverings or keeping host produce inside enclosed spaces.

### Why does fruit need to be kept under secure conditions?

For host produce grown outside the Quarantine Area, and moved through the markets, market operators need to implement new measures in order to ensure produce is kept free of Queensland fruit fly and can continue to be traded.

If host produce is not maintained in secure condition while at, or transiting through, it will require a treatment in order to comply with the QAN. The approved treatment measures include fumigation or cold treatment (website link <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/qfly-movement-measures>).

It's important we do all we can to keep WA's Queensland fruit fly free status—it protects our export market access and prevents us having to cold treat or fumigate fruit that moves to sensitive markets.

### **Are there any host fruit that do not need to be kept under secure conditions?**

Yes, under the approved measures, bananas, pawpaw, babaco Tahitian lime, black sapotes and hass avocado, pomegranate, jackfruit, longan, rambutan may be moved from the wider quarantine area where harvested at a specific stage of maturity or condition.

Specific details can be found on the DPIRD website (<https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/qfly-movement-measures>).

### **Does transport of produce to markets on enclosed trucks meet secure requirement?**

As described in the requirements for secure storage/packing/transportation. Transport in enclosed trucks free from gaps greater than 1.6 mm are considered secure.

### **If you place produce from a secure truck directly into a cold store, will secure conditions be maintained?**

Yes.

### **Is there an allowable length of time acceptable for Secure Conditions to be maintained without the need to wrap product?**

No, if the host produce is not in unvented packages, or vented packages with vents covered in mesh or liner, then it should be secured with plastic wrap, or tarpaulins, hessian, mesh or other coverings, or moved to an enclosed space.

### **If produce is unpacked from a truck and not put directly in a cold store or secure facility, how can these be protected?**

If the host produce is not in unvented packages, or vented packages with vents covered in mesh or liner, then the use of plastic wrap, tarpaulins, hessian, mesh or other coverings which provide a maximum aperture of 1.6 mm will maintain secure conditions if produce needs to be left out of a coldstore or truck.

### **For produce that needs to be re-packed in a warehouse can it be out in the open air of warehouse while re-packing, or does it need to be covered at all times?**

Any repackaging of host product inside a warehouse, where it is kept enclosed behind closed doors are considered secure.

If host produce remains in an open air environment, it needs to be covered by secure fly-proof packaging. This means there are no gaps >1.6 mm in the packaging.

This includes unvented packages, or vented packages with vents covered in mesh or liner, plastic wrap, or tarpaulins, hessian, mesh or other coverings.

### **Can produce be displayed at the markets?**

Yes. However, host produce displayed will need to be covered in fly-proof packaging. This means there are no gaps >1.6 mm in the packaging.

If fruit is not maintained in a secure condition it cannot leave the Quarantine area without treatment as per an approved manner the Quarantine Area Notice.

Under the approved measures, specified fruit only, harvested at a specific stage of maturity and or skin condition would not need to be kept under secure conditions.

### **Can produce be repacked at the markets?**

Yes. However once repackaged in an open air environment, the fruit needs to be covered in fly-proof packaging. This means there are no gaps >1.6 mm in the packaging.

Fly-proof packaging includes unvented packages, or vented packages with vents covered in mesh or liner, or plastic wrap, or vented packages placed under tarpaulins, hessian, mesh or other coverings.

### **Can produce be moved from cold storage to buyer's bays?**

Any host produce removed from secure conditions such as cold-rooms to buyer's bays will also need to be covered in fly-proof packaging.

### **Are there traps located at the Perth Markets at Canning Vale?**

Yes, traps are installed around the markets.

### **If a buyer opens a box, inspect the produce and close it again, would this no longer be considered secure?**

No, if the box is opened, fruit inspected then immediately secured again, this fruit would still be considered to be secure.

### **When moving fruit from a cold store to a buyer or transport company, is there an acceptable length of time without needing to cover the fruit?**

Any host produce removed from secure conditions such as trucks, and not directly moved to secure conditions of another truck in a reasonable time will also need to be covered in fly-proof packaging.

### **If full pallets are split into smaller lots at the markets, how must this be done?**

Any splitting of pallets at the market should preferably be done in enclosed areas, if this is not possible, then produce during the splitting should be covered with plastic wrap, mesh or other coverings which provide a maximum aperture of 1.6 mm immediately.

## If produce is unloaded from a truck at several destinations are secure conditions maintained?

Yes, any host produce remaining in an enclosed truck whilst unloading occurs in a reasonable manner, would be considered to have remained in secure conditions while moving to several destinations through and out of the quarantine area.

## Is a host fruit considered secure if pulp temperature is below 16 degrees?

A specific pulp temperature is not an agreed method to keep fruit in secure conditions. The cold-room option provided in the secure measures is related to it being a secure, controlled environment.

It is not related to any cold storage treatment options accepted by WA for host produce from areas where Queensland fruit fly is established.

## What happens to fruit that arrives at the markets in unsecure condition?

Any produce arriving at the markets must comply with conditions of the QAN if it is to leave the quarantine area. This will not be required for some fruits, if harvested at a specific state of maturity ([see approved measures](#)).

## Are there any stages of fruit maturity that don't need to be securely packaged or covered?

The following fruits can be moved without security when at the maturity specified below:

babaco, pawpaw	Green mature condition with fruit not more than 1/4 yellow
Tahitian lime	Green mature condition with fruit with no yellow colouring
Banana - cavendish, plantain	Green, hard condition with no yellow colouring
black sapote	Green mature condition with fruit with no black colouring
mangosteen	Green mature condition with fruit with no purplish black colouring
avocado - Hass and Lamb Hass varieties	Hard condition with undamaged skin
durian, jaboticaba, jackfruit, longan, lychee, pomegranate	Unbroken skin
rambutan	Unbroken skin and not over ripe

## What are the requirements for buildings storing Qfly host produce?

Buildings storing Qfly host produce should be fully enclosed or screened and free from gaps of greater than 1.6mm. Qfly host produce can also be stored in Commercial cold storage.

### **What do I need to do while handling Qfly host produce at the markets?**

Ensure the produce is securely packaged at all times and if you need to handle the produce remove packaging while you are handling it and cover again as soon as possible.

### **Who is responsible for ensuring Qfly host produce is securely packaged as the produce is stored, displayed and transported from the markets?**

The controller or owner of the produce is responsible for ensuring fruit is maintained under secure conditions while moving through the markets. Ideally, the produce should arrive at the markets in a secure condition that can be maintained throughout the entire journey from seller to buyer and onto its final destination.

### **Does Qfly host produce treated by fumigation need to be maintained under secure conditions?**

Yes, produce will need to be securely packaged post-treatment until it reaches its final destination.

### **What should I do with waste of Qfly host produce?**

All Qfly host waste should be managed to minimise the risk of it becoming infested with Qfly. Either place Qfly host produce waste in the organic waste bins provided by Perth Markets Group Limited or make your own arrangements for disposal of Qfly produce waste. If you choose to make your own arrangements you must ensure the waste is treated in a way that will kill any Qfly larvae or eggs that may be in the waste. Refer to the Quarantine Area Notice for approved treatment options.

### **Does Qfly host produce on display need to be securely packaged?**

Yes. All Qfly host produce on display needs to be securely packaged or covered. For example – covered with netting (holes in the net must be less than 1.6mm) or plastic wrap.

## **ASSISTANCE OFFERED**

### **What assistance will be offered in managing costs of compliance?**

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) will provide assistance with compliance through education for members to meet the requirements.

## **TRANSFER OF RESPONSIBILITY**

### **Who has responsibility for the condition of fruit leaving the quarantine area, the grower, the market agent or the buyer?**

It is ultimately the party moving the produce outside the quarantine area that has legal responsibility. However, there is a shared benefit to all parties helping measuring secure conditions are met.

## Further Information

For the latest information on Qfly visit [agric.wa.gov.au/qflyupdate](http://agric.wa.gov.au/qflyupdate).

Enquiries can also be directed to DPIRD, Industry Liaison - Ian Wilkinson on 97806278/0459846705 or email [ians.wilkinson@dpird.wa.gov.au](mailto:ians.wilkinson@dpird.wa.gov.au)

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