

Queensland fruit fly (Qfly) Willagee

Industry update #6, 19 August 2025

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) is pleased to announce that Queensland fruit fly (Qfly) has been eradicated from Willagee and surrounding suburbs.

Thanks to the enormous efforts of residents impacted in our southern suburbs, along with Perth Markets who were faced with quarantine restrictions, Qfly eradication was achieved on 18 August 2025, nine months after the incident was declared.

Western Australia's (WA) area freedom for this pest has now been reinstated. The Quarantine Area Notice will be lifted and businesses and residents will no longer be subject to quarantine movement controls on host fruit and vegetables.

This is the tenth time Qfly has been successfully eradicated from the Perth metropolitan area since 1989 and is a great example of how we can all pull together to protect our horticultural industries and environment.

Qfly is one of the most serious pests of fruit and fruiting vegetables in Australia, attacking over 300 species of fruit and vegetables and impacting a range of horticulture industries and access to valuable markets.

Incident overview

Qfly was first detected in Willagee in November 2024 through routine monitoring of traps in WA's early warning Qfly surveillance network. A Quarantine Area was proclaimed and the Willagee Qfly eradication program was initiated.

Under the National Fruit Fly Management Protocols a Quarantine Area included two zones – a corrective action zone around where the pest was first found (Red Zone) and an export assurance zone (Orange Zone) a 15-kilometre radius of the initial detections.

Residents and businesses in the Red Zone were asked to remove all fruit – regardless of maturity – from Qfly host plants, as well as fallen fruit.

Residents and commercial operators in the red and orange zones wishing to move fruit and host plants were subject to movement requirements which included securely covering produce to mitigate the risk of Qfly spreading.

The response operated out of the new State Biosecurity Response Centre in Canning Vale with a forward command post established at Winnacott Reserve in Willagee.

During the eradication program, almost 77,000 property inspections were conducted across about 12,255 properties in the Willagee area. More than 58,000 host plants were inspected and the necessary surveillance, baiting, and trapping activities undertaken.

Impact on industry

The export assurance zone (orange zone) included a strawberry grower and Perth Markets, Western Australia's only wholesale fresh food central trading market.

To mitigate the risk of Qfly spread, biosecurity officers collaborated with Perth Markets, vendors, and buyers to implement measures designed to mitigate the risk of Qfly. Engagement extended to weekend farmers markets, supermarkets, and grocers - particularly during the busy pre-Christmas period. A reference group, including Markets West and Market City operators, was established to support two-way communication and ensure implementation of effective quarantine measures.

DPIRD also worked closely with nurseries and Bunnings stores in both the red and orange zones to ensure quarantine measures were in place. Customer-facing signage was installed at several Bunnings locations, with QR code interactions indicating strong public engagement and awareness.

DPIRD acknowledges the proactive efforts of industry stakeholders, their cooperation was instrumental in the swift and effective eradication of Qfly.

Ongoing Qfly surveillance and reporting

DPIRD manages a permanent Qfly surveillance trapping array as an early warning system and to provide evidence to trading partners that Qfly is not present in the state.

As part of this program, about 2300 traps which are hosted by residents and producers across metropolitan Perth and the WA regions of Kununurra, Geraldton, Carnarvon, Bunbury, Donnybrook, Manjimup, and Albany.

In addition to ongoing surveillance, growers of Qfly hosts such as strawberry, citrus, avocado, stone fruit, and tomato should regularly check for signs of Qfly.

If you see anything unusual or suspect your produce may be affected, report it immediately and seek advice from DPIRD's Pest and Disease Information Service (PaDIS) on 08 9368 3080 or email padis@dpird.wa.gov.au.

Alternatively you can send photos via the department's MyPestGuide® Reporter app ([Google Play Store](#) and [Apple iTunes Store](#)), or email padis@dpird.wa.gov.au

Incident closure

The Qfly Willagee incident has now officially closed and DPIRD thanks growers and residents for their support of this successful eradication campaign.

There will be no further industry updates provided.

Important Disclaimer

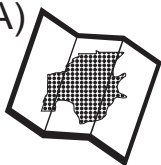
The Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and the State of Western Australia accept no liability whatsoever by reason of negligence or otherwise arising from the use or release of this information or any part of it.

Copyright © State of Western Australia (Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development), 2025.

Queensland fruit fly Willagee response

Quarantine Area

Quarantine Area (QA) covered **707 km²** and **22** Local Government Areas



12,255 properties located in the Corrective Action Zone (CAZ) of the QA

58,352 host plants identified



76,915 property visits conducted

The QA included Perth Markets, WA's central trading market.



Response



263 people representing **29** countries employed at the peak of the response

82 vehicles used



Up to **74** teams worked in the field at the height of the baiting program



350 contract staff employed during the course of the response



80 mobile devices used for field work data entry



29 stakeholder engagement events conducted, including **24** in the CAZ, to answer questions from residents

First response to utilise WA's new State Biosecurity Response Centre in Canning Vale.



Result

Qfly Willagee marks the tenth successful Qfly eradication program in Western Australia



Over **10,500** fruit fly lures deployed to deplete male populations and reduce mating – effectively preventing another generation of flies.



533 samples of fruit collected for laboratory testing for Qfly

