

Managing Riverland vineyards located inside Queensland fruit fly outbreak areas – 2022-23

Current as at 3 November 2022

What is happening?

As part of an integrated approach to fruit fly eradication activities in the Riverland, industry and PIRSA are advising vineyards to implement specific measures in 2022-23 growing season that will minimise further fruit fly outbreaks and support with eradication in the region.

Growers need to consider four key points:

- 1) Using baits and lures
- 2) Operational requirements for vineyard practices
- 3) Requirements for moving winegrapes between vineyards and wineries
- 4) Managing unsold winegrapes

Points 1 – 3 are relevant to growers with vineyards in current fruit fly outbreak areas in the Riverland and wineries receiving these grapes.

Point 4 is relevant to all vineyards located inside either an outbreak or a suspension area in the Riverland.

Check if your vineyard or winery is located in a red outbreak area or yellow suspension area by searching your property address at fruitfly.sa.gov.au/outbreak-map

1. Using baits and lures

Baits

PIRSA will continue to apply fruit fly bait to all areas inside 200 m around a confirmed fruit fly detection.

PIRSA is encouraging growers in red outbreak areas to participate in a self-baiting program to help treat the remaining land in the 1.5km outbreak areas. The voluntary self-baiting program runs until at least December 2022. This approach enables PIRSA to focus resources in a concentrated way on the highest risk areas as well as continue deploying fruit fly traps, releasing sterile flies and checking susceptible host fruit for fruit fly larvae.

Note: Baiting will be required in the lead up to vintage under a new system being developed for moving and receiving winegrapes out of an outbreak area. This is an alternative option to the current winegrapes accreditation and certification systems. Details of this new option will be discussed with the industry during November.

The table below outlines bait application to vineyard rows and surrounding areas:

Bait timing	Type	Purpose	Target	Notes
August until veraison (or December 2022)	Voluntary application by growers inside outbreak areas	Fruit flies become active and feed on leaves** of a range of trees	Across as much of the vineyard as possible but at least where tree lines exist around the edge of a vineyard, apply Naturalure® fruit fly bait once a week	PIRSA has committed to supplying growers Naturalure® bait free of charge until December 2022
Veraison (or December 2022) to harvest	Voluntary application by growers inside outbreak areas	As berries enlarge and soften, fruit flies will search for fruit to lay their eggs in	Apply Naturalure® fruit fly bait once a week to vine rows*, perimeters or windbreaks. Lures are also an option (see below).	
Veraison to harvest	Mandatory application by growers inside outbreak areas if moving winegrapes under a new system that includes this requirement – this is not ICA-33.		Apply Naturalure® fruit fly bait once a week to vine rows*, perimeters or windbreaks. Lures are also an option (see below).	

* Ensure you consult your winery before applying bait to your vines pre-harvest.

** Fruit fly feed on fungus and bacteria that contain protein, found on the leaves of almost all trees.

About Naturalure®

- Naturalure® is a certified organic formulated blend of protein and sugar-based attractant. Its active ingredient is Spinosad.
- Fruit flies detect the bait several metres away, attracted by the proteins and sugars.
- For winegrape growers: the rate of spinosad in Naturalure® (0.24g/L) is considerably less than contained in some products registered for use on grapes, such as Entrust Organic (240g/L) or Preserve 120 SC (120g/L) for which the withholding period is E-L 31, berries pea-size. Accordingly, wine taint as a consequence of Naturalure® applications is expected to be limited. However, please check with your winery before beginning the application, as MRLs vary by country.

How to register your vineyard for the self-baiting program

If your commercial property is within a red outbreak area, scan this QR code or visit the PIRSA website to register: www.fruitfly.sa.gov.au/industry-support/growers/self-baiting-program



- Once you have successfully registered, PIRSA will supply you with Naturalure® bait to use on your property until December 2022.
- You will receive detailed guidelines for use according to chemical labels, safety data sheets (SDS) and current use permits.
- You will need to complete a spray diary for PIRSA as a record of your Naturalure® baiting activities, and PIRSA has developed systems to help with this.
- You will also need to record any bait applications in your own spray diary for your grape purchasers.

Lures

PIRSA is also supplying fruit fly MAT cup lures (collectively known as 'attract and kill devices', or AKDs) to Riverland growers in outbreak areas until December. These lures are not recommended for general application in vineyards as they are likely to interfere with, and be damaged by, machinery operations. If suitable, consideration should be given to placing them on the end of the row strainer post. If this is not possible, tree lines surrounding a vineyard may be used to apply lures safely. Discuss your situation with PIRSA to find out if your property is suitable for lures.

2. Operational requirements for vineyard practices

Requirements are being developed for machine harvester wash-downs between fruit fly affected areas. These will be communicated in the lead-up to vintage. Communications about these facilities will be provided.

3. Requirements for moving winegrapes between vineyards and wineries

Additional accreditation and certification options for moving and receiving winegrapes grown inside Riverland fruit fly affected areas are being developed.

Until additional options are finalised, arrangements for moving winegrapes remain unchanged. Refer to the [Movement of wine grapes](#) information on the fruit fly website (www.fruitfly.sa.gov.au > Industry support > Growers and producers > Treatment and movement options > Wine grapes).

The full suite of options available for moving and receiving winegrapes out of an outbreak area will be discussed with industry in November.

4. Managing unsold winegrapes

It is likely some growers this season may be faced with the difficulty of being unable to sell some or all of their grapes. The preference from a biosecurity perspective is to not grow fruit if it won't be sold, and for unsold grapes to be managed early as per the advice below. However, decisions as to whether or not to grow fruit remain up to each individual business, and growers should make an assessment based on their particular circumstances.

To minimise the risk of unsold winegrapes becoming an unintentional host for fruit fly, PIRSA and the wine industry have worked together to review management options available to growers at harvest. Please follow this advice:

- Unsold winegrape crops should be harvested onto the ground to desiccate
- Conduct this harvesting as early as possible in the grape ripening phase
- Set up the harvester to spread the harvested grapes out over the vineyard floor, and where possible, run the harvester over the harvested grapes in the same action to macerate them
- Conduct the harvesting during the daytime, so sunlight and heat rapidly begin the desiccation process

More information

Visit fruitfly.sa.gov.au or call the Fruit Fly Hotline on 1300 666 010.