

FRESH NOTES

A TECHNICAL UPDATE PUBLISHED BY HORTGRO SCIENCE

Stone Fruit Protocols for the EU 2020/2021 season - SUMMARY

All stone fruit growers (PUC's) and Packhouses (PHC's) must be registered on PhytClean for exports to the EU. Below is a summary of key issues to take note of to ensure compliance with requirements. Please also refer to Fresh Notes (163) 4 October 2019 for information on the Fruit fly and FCM management systems verification checklist for stone fruit intended for export to the EU.

Please note that it is critical to maintain the integrity of the systems approach to managing the process to the level required by the EU (zero tolerance). Therefore, it is in everyone's interest to demonstrate that we can maintain a zero interception rate in the EU for all stone fruit for FCM (peaches and nectarines) and all non-European fruit flies (all stone fruit).

STONE FRUIT FRUIT FLY MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES	PEACH & NECTARINE FCM MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES
MONITORING: timing	
Monitor per orchard, weekly <u>from petal drop to leaf drop.</u>	Monitor per orchard, weekly <u>from petal drop to harvest.</u> In orchards where there is a known history of FCM infestation, monitoring should start <u>from bud swell and continue until leaf drop.</u>
Monitor in other fruit-bearing orchards (e.g. citrus), home gardens, riverbeds and any other alternative hosts, <u>throughout the year.</u>	
MONITORING: trap density	
One trap per 2 ha for <i>Ceratitis capitata</i> , <i>C. rosa</i> and <i>C. quilicii</i> placed in the centre of each monitoring block. Official requirement is 1 ME bucket trap per PUC or per 100 hectares - preferably 1 per 25 hectares for <i>Bactrocera dorsalis</i> .	One FCM pheromone trap per 2 ha placed in the centre of each monitoring block.
<p><i>Practical examples for other on-farm scenarios:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In orchards of 3 ha, if it is on a flat surface, one trap is sufficient, but if the orchard is on a slope, use 2 traps. • For orchards between 3 and 4 ha, use 2 traps. • For small orchards, e.g. 1 ha, use 1 trap in each orchard if the orchards are separated from adjacent orchards by a road, windbreak or similar division. • Where 2 small orchards, e.g. 1 ha each, are adjacent to each other without being separated by a road, windbreak or similar division, 1 trap can be placed in the centre of the 2 orchards. 	
FRUIT INFESTATION: fruit damage assessments	
<p>Select and clearly mark 25 evenly spaced trees per 2 ha block.</p> <p>Trees must be evenly spaced within the block, and not clustered around the trap. <i>(This was raised by DALRRD as a non-compliance issue during inspection/verification)</i></p>	

Start fruit damage assessments 6 weeks before harvest - at least three fruit damage assessments must be done per cultivar (including a pre-harvest assessment 10 days before harvest):

- 1) 6 weeks before harvest
- 2) 4 weeks before harvest
- 3) within 10 days before harvest

DATA CAPTURING AND RECORD KEEPING

All monitoring data and fruit damage assessment results must be recorded and safeguarded for audit purposes.

Excel spreadsheets for capturing monitoring data and fruit damage assessment results are available as linked Appendices in the fruit fly guidelines. The fruit fly monitoring spreadsheet must be uploaded on PhytClean when reporting the official *B. dorsalis* surveillance data (in Excel).

These same spreadsheets can be amended for FCM data for monitoring and fruit damage assessments.

ORCHARD SANITATION

Orchard sanitation is of utmost importance.
Orchard sanitation and destruction of fruit must be implemented according to the protocols and guidelines.
Record keeping of orchard sanitation is required.

(Poor orchard sanitation was an issue raised by DALRRD as non-compliance during inspection/verification)

PACKHOUSE FRUIT DELIVERY INSPECTION

The packhouse manager must ensure that 600 fruit are selected from an orchard for inspection upon first delivery within a calendar week.

Results from inspection must be recorded, reported on PhytClean and records must be safeguarded for auditing purposes.

PACKHOUSE INSPECTION AND GRADING

Packhouse graders must receive correct training and updates of information, with evidence of this training (e.g. attendance register).

Regular removal of waste during grading and inspection should be done as is required.

(Both of the above were raised by DALRRD as issues during inspection/verification)

CRITICAL CONTROL POINTS

The following four critical control points have been added to the Fruit fly and FCM management guidelines and require full compliance:

Orchard selection: Orchards that could be infested with fruit fly or FCM by neighbouring high risk areas (home gardens containing host plants, poorly managed orchards, juicing factories, hawker activity), unless these high risk areas are under effective fruit fly or FCM control, must be excluded for export to the EU.

During the fruit damage assessments (6 weeks before harvest and 4 weeks before harvest): If any fruit fly or FCM damage is recorded in an orchard then additional registered control measures must be applied according to the listed control options.

During the pre-harvest fruit damage assessment (within 10 days before harvest): If any live fruit fly larvae/eggs, or live FCM larvae are found in fruit during the pre-harvest damage assessment then it is recommended that the orchard be withdrawn for the EU and fruit should be submitted to an alternative market.

At the packhouse: If any fruit fly or FCM infested or damaged fruit is detected during the packhouse delivery inspection or during the final end point inspection, the source orchard must be withdrawn for export to the EU for the remainder of the season.

PHYTCLEAN REGISTRATION AND INSPECTION VERIFICATION

- Please take note that the declaration relating to fruit infestation monitoring, includes the pre-harvest fruit damage assessment, for all registered orchards.
- Producers cannot add additional varieties or orchards after registration (e.g. during inspection/verification).
- Persons who bring documentation to DALRRD relating to inspection/verification, must be well-informed with regard to required documentation.
- When registering ensure that contact details are updated/correct for persons who must receive information/be contacted regarding the above/other.
- Parties registering on behalf of producers must ensure that producers are informed of all the requirements.

It is the responsibility of producers to be aware of and implement all requirements.