



Mediterranean Fruit Fly (Medfly) Fact Sheet 2 - Host Plants

Information provided courtesy of Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

Mediterranean fruit fly (*Ceratitis capitata*) is a serious horticultural pest that attacks a range of cultivated fruits in Western Australia. Host plants are key to the survival and increase of Medfly populations.

The selection of host plants by Medfly is closely related to their reproductive behaviour. Males choose newly ripening fruit as mating areas and females will prefer ripening fruit with soft skin where they can lay their eggs. Female Medfly will infest less preferred hosts (such as Indian sandalwood or olives) when fruit fly population is high.

Host plants provide the nutrients required by the Medfly to complete development from eggs to adult and provide shelter during summer and winter.



Apple



Oranges



Grapes



Bell Apple Fruit

Medfly abundance and level of infestation (in a particular area) is related to the range and ripeness of hosts and the time these fruits are available:

- Several different hosts with different fruiting seasons will sustain Medfly all year round.
- Affected fruit varieties will depend on species present in a particular location.

Medfly may shelter in other plants including ornamentals found in or around your property.

If you have any host plants in your garden, hobby farm or plantation, please implement a Medfly control program that also includes setting up traps in non host plants.

List of known host plants in Western Australia

In Western Australia the most commonly infested fruit include apricots, nectarines, peaches, mangoes, persimmons, apples, pears and mandarins.

High susceptibility			
Apricots	Mango	Peach	Orange
Plum	Mandarin	Nectarine	Pear
Fig	Guava	Loquat	Grape

Medium susceptibility			
Apple	Bell or wax apple	Tomato	Papaya, paw paw
Cherry	Grapefruit	Quince	Star fruit,

Low susceptibility			
Lemon	Lime	Olive	Custard apple
Avocado	Soursop	Prickly Pear	Curry Tree
Ducass Banana	Indian		

If you suspect your plants are stung by or infected with Medfly or any other fruit fly, please report them to:

MyPestGuide™ Reporter
via app or online
mypestguide.agric.wa.gov.au

Pest and Disease Information Service
(08) 9368 3080
padis@dpird.wa.gov.au

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Contact information

All public enquiries should be directed to Pest and Disease Information Service (PaDIS) at the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Agriculture and Food Division.

PaDIS Phone [08] 9368 3080

PaDIS email: padis@dpird.wa.gov.au