**Keeping New Zealand Fruit Fly Free**

*Matt Dyck, Chair New Zealand Fruit Fly Council*

Fruit flies are considered one of New Zealand’s most significant biosecurity threats and we make considerable investment into systems to prevent these pests from establishing here. New Zealand is fortunate to be one of the few major horticultural nations that remains free of economically important fruit flies. This status supports our $6 billion international export industry and holds significant benefit to the New Zealand public in the production of backyard fruit. An unmanaged incursion would jeopardise this status and have significant impacts on New Zealand’s economy, communities and trading relationships.

New Zealand operates a world class national fruit fly surveillance programme of around 8000 pheromone traps across the country. This system provides trading partners with confidence of country freedom status and acts as an early warning system should an incursion occur.

Under the Government Industry Agreement for Biosecurity Readiness and Response (GIA) eight horticultural groups work closely in partnership with Government as a Fruit Fly Council. The Council has an agreement for shared biosecurity readiness activities across all fruit fly species, covers responses and allocates cost shares for the three species of fruit fly expected to have the broadest impact should they establish in New Zealand (Queensland Fruit Fly, Mediterranean Fruit Fly and Oriental Fruit Fly).