

19/154 Intergovernmental Agreement on Strengthening Australia's Fruit Fly Management System (IGA)

Summary of impacts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fruit flies have the potential to have adverse social and economic impacts on ACT gardeners and horticultural producers growing susceptible plant species. Implementation of the IGA can be expected to either reduce the risk of fruit fly impacts on gardeners and producers or have no impact (fruit fly prevalence in the ACT is currently low). There is minimal horticultural production in the ACT and no significant increase in regulatory or economic impact is anticipated from implementation of the IGA. The potential impacts of fruit fly on ACT native flora are unknown. However, soft, fleshy fruits are not prevalent amongst native ACT plant species and no significant impact on, or benefit to, native flora is anticipated from implementation of the IGA.

Key to impacts: Red – negative, Blue – neutral, Green – positive.

Social

Justice and rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Species grown by ACT gardeners that can potentially be affected by fruit fly include apple, apricot, blackberry, blueberry, capsicum, cherry, chilli, eggplant, feijoa, fig, grapefruit, grapes, kiwifruit, lemon, lime, loganberry, mandarin, mulberry, nectarine, olive, orange, peach, pear, persimmon, plum, prickly pear (<i>Opuntia ficus indica</i> only), quince, raspberry, strawberry and tomato. Implementation of the IGA to reduce the risk of new exotic fruit fly incursions can be expected to either reduce the risk of fruit fly infestation for ACT garden species or have no impact. The only potential adverse impact on ACT gardeners could occur if management of an exotic incursion or established population of fruit fly required treatment of susceptible plant species in ACT gardens. In recent eradication responses to Queensland fruit fly in Tasmania, removal of fruit fly host fruit was required within 200 metre zone baiting and ground treatment areas around infested trees, including from fruit trees in gardens. However, no plants required removal so impacts on gardeners were transient.
---------------------------	--

Economic

ACT Government Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no direct impact on the ACT Government Budget from becoming a party to the IGA. The ACT has no financial commitment under the cost-sharing arrangement for delivery of the research, development and extension program at schedule 2. Actions agreed through implementation of the IGA could potentially have a cost and/or resource impost in future, such as increased fruit fly trapping as part of the National Plant Health Surveillance Program, eradication or containment of an exotic fruit fly incursion (should this occur), management of established or native fruit fly populations (should the need arise) and implementing any future changes to National Fruit Fly Management Protocols, Interstate Certification Assurance scheme protocols or beneficial research outcomes relevant to ACT horticultural production. Costs could include increased regulatory activity and/or legislation change. However, the ACT would typically undertake such activities anyway as part of existing commitments under the Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity, Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed and other national biosecurity (including fruit fly) arrangements. Signing the fruit fly IGA is not anticipated to significantly increase such activities.
Productivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are a small number of commercial fruit orchards in Pialligo and two commercial vineyards where productivity could potentially be affected by fruit fly. The commercial fruit orchards are growing predominantly apples and, to a lesser extent, mixed species such as pears, stone fruit and quinces. Implementation of activities under the IGA would be expected to reduce the risk of fruit fly infestation in commercial enterprises or have no impact (fruit fly prevalence in the ACT is currently low).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the IGA is not expected to increase the likelihood of an exotic fruit fly incursion that requires eradication or containment, or increase established fruit fly populations in commercial orchards and vineyards so that they require management. • Changes to National Fruit Fly Management Protocols and Interstate Certification Assurance scheme protocols relevant to fruit fly affected produce could have an impact on ACT producers. However, such protocols are routinely updated where necessary under the National Biosecurity Committee structure and represent normal business.
--	---

Environmental

Native flora	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The impact of established and native fruit fly, or the potential impact of exotic fruit fly, on native flora in the ACT is unknown, but is expected to be low or absent. Few species of native flora in the ACT have the type of soft, fleshy fruit commonly infested by fruit fly. The susceptibility of native species in the tomato family that have fleshy fruits (eg. Mountain Kangaroo Apple; <i>Solanum linearifolium</i>) is unknown. Note that there are over 150 native fruit fly species in Australia and some of these may occur in association with ACT native flora. Implementation of the IGA is unlikely to have any significant impact on, or benefit for, native flora. Implementation of the IGA should not increase the risk of an exotic, established or native fruit fly incursion or population increase in the ACT.
---------------------	---