

Cutting Edge

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MORE STRINGENT FRUIT FLY CONTROL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE EU

Recently Spain (and therefore the EU) has called on the South African government for assurances that non-Mediterranean fruit fly is being adequately controlled by DPHQ. This resulted in a meeting with the General Manager (CRI) and DPHQ where the issue was deliberated. DPHQ proposed a "strike and disqualification" approach similar to that implemented for Citrus Black Spot. It was finally agreed that this drastic approach was not currently warranted and that growers should be advised of the risks of fruit fly interventions and the industry recommend mitigating steps to eliminate the threat of an introduction.

The presence of a single larva (dead or alive) of any fruit fly species should be perceived as a threat to the EU as DPHQ could not give the assurance that it was not Natal fruit fly. Even if subsequent studies demonstrated that that particular larvae was Medfly (not a phytosanitary threat), DPHQ could not give any assurances that further examination of the consignment would not turn up Natal fruit fly as the flies occur sympatrically in most, if not all, parts of the country.

What are the consequences of an intervention? DPHQ is likely to enforce a "strike and disqualification" procedure. This approach has been applied for Citrus Black Spot and the growers are well aware of the impact that this has had on the industry. Furthermore, the EU may insist on post-harvest mitigating treatments such as cold sterilization. The costs associated with such a programme are prohibitive. It is therefore imperative that the citrus industry take cognisance of the situation and instigate procedures that will eliminate the risk of fruit fly detection by the EU inspectors.

Citrus Research International (Pty) Ltd Extension Department arranged a meeting to which numerous citrus-industry technical

personnel were invited. Current monitoring, control and inspection protocols were discussed and the following recommendations were made:

MONITORING

1. Every orchard registered for export to the European Union must be monitored for fruit flies by using at least one Sensus fruit fly trap. On farms with less than 100 ha citrus, one trap should not represent more than 2 ha. On farms larger than 100 ha citrus, one trap may represent up to 5 ha.
2. The preferred attractant to be used in the Sensus traps is Capilure (containing trimedlure). This is due to it being an internationally recognised fruit fly attractant, a more powerful attractant than currently-used alternatives, and not being influenced by the use of proteins in control methods.
3. The treatment threshold for use with Capilure in Sensus traps has been reduced from 7 flies to 4 flies per trap per week. The sex or species of fly is not important. When more than 4 flies are caught in a trap, an immediate bait application is required because this indicates that the current control methods are inadequate.

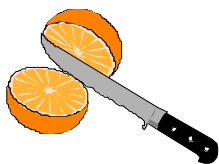
CONTROL METHODS

No specific method of fruit fly control is recommended but due to our increasing dependence on natural enemies of other citrus pests, the potential detrimental effects of certain baiting techniques should be considered. These non-target effects will be more severe if the frequency of bait applications is increased in order to comply with stricter trap thresholds.

POST-HARVEST INSPECTION

The current PPECB inland inspection

protocol will be maintained. However, should it become evident at any stage during the next export season or thereafter, that growers have not been able to adequately manage the risk, a “strike and disqualification” system will most likely be implemented by DPHQ.



VOORSTELLE VIR STRENGER VRUGTEVLIEGBEHEER VIR EU

Spanje (en daarom die EU) het onlangs die Suid Afrikaanse regering se Departement van Plantgehalte en Kwaliteit (DPHQ) genader vir die versekering dat nie-Meditereense vrugtevlieë doeltreffend beheer word en nie 'n risiko vir Spanje inhou nie. Dit het tot gevolg gehad dat DPHQ en die algemene bestuurder van CRI 'n vergadering belê het waartydens die aangeleentheid bespreek is. DPHQ het 'n diskwalifikasie stelsel voorgestel soortgelyk aan dit wat tans vir swartvlek geïmplementeer word. Daar is egter uiteindelik besluit dat dit nie nodig is om sulke drastiese stappe te implementeer nie, maar dat produsente gewaarsku moet word wat die implikasie van vrugtevliegafkeurings in Europa op die industrie kan hê. Daar is ook besluit om die nodige voorkomende stappe te neem om die moontlike gevaar van vrugtevlieë uit te skakel.

Die teenwoordigheid van 'n enkele larwe (dood of lewendig) moet gesien word as 'n risiko vir die EU aangesien DPHQ nie die versekering kan gee dat dit nie 'n Natal vrugtevlieg is nie. Selfs as verdere identifisering van die larwe toon dat die spesifieke larf Meditereense vrugtevlieg is, wat nie 'n fitosanitêre pes is nie, kan die versekering nie gegee word dat 'n verdere ondersoek van dieselfde besending vrugte nie Natalvlieg ook sal oplewer nie. Beide vlieë kom in in die meeste van die sitrusproduserende gebiede in Suid-Afrika voor.

Wat is die gevolge van die onderskepping van 'n besending met vrugtevlieg? DPHQ sal genoodsaak wees om dieselfde diskwalifiseerde maatreëls in plek te stel as die wat tans vir swartvlek geld. Produsente is bewus van die ongerief wat dit kan inhou maar die gevolge kan aansienlik meer dramaties wees. Die EU kan aandrang daarop dat sekere na-oes behandelings ook toegepas moet word soos koue sterilisasie.

Die koste verbonde aan die oprigting van infrastruktuur om dit te kan uitvoer is te hoog. Dit is dus duidelik dat produsente alles in hulle vermoë moet doen om te voorkom dat vrugtevlieg in enige van die sitrusbesendings deur die EU inspekteurs gevind word.

CRI het 'n aantal tegniese personeel uit die sitrusbedryf genooi om die saak te bespreek. Monitering, beheer en inspeksie prosedures is bespreek en die volgende aanbevelings is gemaak.

MONITERING

1. Elke boord wat geregistreer is vir uitvoere na die EU moet gemonitor word vir vrugtevlieg deur minstens een Sensusvalletjie uit te hang. Op plase van minder as 100ha moet hierdie valletjie verteenwoordigend wees van 'n area nie groter as 2ha nie. Op plase groter as 100ha kan een valletjie areas so groot as 5ha verteenwoordig.
2. Die lokaas wat verkies word in hierdie valletjies is Capilure (wat trimedlure bevat). Capilure word internasionaal erken as 'n vrugtevlieglokmiddel en is 'n sterker lokmiddel as sekere van die ander lokmiddels. Dit word ook nie beïnvloed deur die proteïene wat in die beheermaatreëls gebruik word nie.
3. Die drempelwaardes waar Capilure in Sensusvalletjies gebruik word, word verlaag van 7 na 4 vrugtevlieë per week. Die geslag en spesie is nie belangrik nie. As meer as 4 vrugtevlieë per week gevang word moet daar onmiddellik beheermaatreëls toegepas word want dit dui dan daarop dat die bestaande maatreëls nie effektief is nie.

BEHEERMAATREËLS

Geen spesifieke beheermaatreëls word

aanbeveel nie. Dit is egter so dat sekere maatreëls meer nadelig is vir die natuurlike vyande van sekere sitrusplae. Hierdie nie-teiken effekte sal vererger word as meer gereelde toedienings plaasvind om aan die strenger vereistes te voldoen.

NA-OES INSPEKSIES

Die huidige PPECB protokol vir binnelandse inspeksies bly voorlopig onveranderd. Nietemin, sou dit duidelik word tydens die volgende uitvoerseisoen of op enige stadium daarna, dat die produsente nie daarin geslaag het om die risiko voldoende te beperk nie, sal die DPHQ hoogs waarskynlik 'n diskwalifikasie stelsel implementeer.