# Fruit fly

* Fruit flies are one of Australia’s most despised plant pests.
* Fruit flies can turn tender, juicy fruits and some vegetables into a mushy, inedible mess.
* The female fly lays eggs onto the ripening fruit of a host plant.
* Days later, the eggs hatch into maggots, causing the inside of the fruit to rot.
* The maggots then feast on the rotting flesh of the fruit and eventually it falls to the ground.
* The maggots then burrow into the soil where they pupate and later emerge as matured adult fruit flies.
* There are 250 species in the fruit fly family in Australia, however only two of these are considered to be major pests capable of causing wide-spread destruction.
* The Queensland fruit fly is an Australian native that can be found in the Northern Territory, Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria.
* The Mediterranean fruit fly on the other hand, is an introduced pest that has been contained to Western Australia.
* While we’re working hard to manage these two pest species, we’re also protecting Australia’s borders from other global fruit fly threats.
* There are a number of exotic fruit fly species, not presently in Australia, that are rapidly spreading from country to country, leaving a trail of destruction wherever they go.
* Extensive surveillance and monitoring programs, as well as strict import conditions, help manage the risk and impact of fruit flies.
* The public and industry can help by not bringing or purchasing fruit from overseas and keeping an eye out and reporting any exotic fruit flies.

(TEXT AT THE END: Australian Government, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment)