GOT MAGGOTS? THINK SCREW-WORM FLY!

THE THREAT

Screw-worm fly is an insect pest of warm blooded animals including people, livestock and wildlife. The fly lays eggs on wounds or moist body openings, which hatch to release aggressive flesh-eating maggots. Establishment of screw-worm fly in Australia would have major negative impacts including on northern livestock production, livestock export trade and public health.

GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION

Screw-worm fly (SWF) is widespread through tropical regions; occurring in some of Australia's close neighbours.

POTENTIAL AFFECTED AREA IN AUSTRALIA

Screw-worm fly is most likely to enter through the Torres Strait or with returning livestock export vessels. Travellers returning from countries where the pest is endemic may also be infested. Screw-worm fly would most likely establish in northern Australia, particularly in the Torres Strait islands and/or in the regions around livestock export ports in WA, NT and QLD.

HOW DO I SPOT SCREW-WORM FLY?

Screw-worm flies look like blowflies found throughout Australia and fly traps are used in northern Australia to look for them. Tissue damage caused by feeding screw-worm fly maggots, and the appearance of the maggots themselves, are more easily recognised than adult flies. Maggot identification requires specialist expertise.

SEND YOUR MAGGOTS!

Please mark Attn: Screw-worm fly surveillance
Queensland: Biosecurity Sciences Laboratory, Health and Food Science Precinct, PO Box 154, Archerfield BC, QLD 4108 (07) 3708 8762
Northern Territory: Berrimah Veterinary Laboratories Department of Primary Industry and Resources, GPO Box 3000, Darwin, NT 0801 (08) 8999 2249
Western Australia: DAFWA Laboratories Department of Agriculture and Food WA, 3 Baron Hay Crt, South Perth, WA 6510 (08) 9368 3351

FURTHER INFORMATION