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**PIRSA**

# Sterile Insect Technology (SIT) FACT SHEET

**PREMIUM**  
FOOD AND WINE FROM OUR  
**CLEAN**  
ENVIRONMENT



Fruit fly is the world's most damaging fruit and vegetable insect pest.

In Australia two kinds of fruit fly – either Mediterranean or Queensland – are major pests in some mainland states except South Australia which is fruit fly free.

Sterile Insect Technology (known as SIT) will see South Australia take the lead in scientifically combating Queensland fruit fly and help protect the nation's horticultural production.

Each year South Australia spends around \$5 million annually to maintain our fruit fly free status.

This provides significant benefit to horticultural growers and exporters who don't have to spend millions of dollars to treat fruit destined for interstate or overseas.

Sterile Insect Technology, known as SIT, is a method in which sterile male fruit flies are released to mate with wild female fruit flies.

SIT is safe and environmentally friendly. It can be used in orchards, urban and environmentally sensitive areas, and where conventional chemical treatment isn't possible or is too intrusive.

The South Australian Government will build a \$3 million facility where male-only sterile Queensland fruit flies can be bred.

This will be a first for Australia.

Pupae produced at the facility will be sold around Australia for release where Q-fly is a major problem in horticulture production areas.

Development of a male-only line of Q-fly will be spearheaded by research partners: the CSIRO Biosecurity Flagship, Horticulture Australia Ltd and Plant & Food Research Australia.

The new facility will help eradicate incursions of Q-fly into South Australia and control Q-fly in major horticulture production areas in the eastern States, while maintaining our State's leadership in biosecurity.

Development of SIT to combat fruit fly in Australia is a further demonstration of the South Australian Government's Premium Food and Wine from our Clean Environment strategic priority.

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