

Apple Maggot

(Rhagoletis pomonella)

Pest Alert

October 2023

Apple maggot, a serious pest of apple fruit, is known to occur in apple trees in the Fraser Valley, Greater Vancouver, Vancouver Island and Prince George areas, as confirmed by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). The Okanagan, Similkameen and Creston valleys of British Columbia remain the only apple-producing regions in North America free of apple maggot.

The CFIA and the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food are seeking the cooperation of all citizens to prevent the spread of apple maggot from the Lower Mainland and Prince George to the B.C. Interior commercial apple production areas via infested host fruit (apples, crab apples, hawthorn), fruit containers and soil.

What can you do to help prevent the spread of apple maggot?

- Do not take any host fruit, fruit bins or other containers used to hold apples out of the Lower Mainland, Vancouver Island or Prince George.
- Do not take plants with garden soil that were grown near host trees out of the Lower Mainland, Vancouver Island or Prince George.
- If you receive fruit from the Lower Mainland, Vancouver Island or Prince George that appears to be infested (see photos below), take it to your nearest garden centre, Master Gardener, CFIA or Ministry of Agriculture and Food office.
- Suspicious fruit can also be sent to the provincial Plant Health Diagnostic Laboratory for a free diagnosis; phone 1-800-661-9903.
- Do not compost any apples that appear to be infested with apple maggot. Place the fruit in a sealed plastic bag and bury at least 30 cm deep or take it to the local landfill for burial.

Contact the CFIA at (604) 557-4500 if you plan to move any host fruit, host trees with soil, or host nursery stock, out of the Lower Mainland, Vancouver Island or Prince George areas.



Internal feeding damage by apple maggot. Larvae can be seen in the circle.



Apple maggot stings and tracking/dimpling on fruit. Stings can be seen in the circle.