

# Pest Alert: *Rhagoletis pomonella*



**Fig. 1** Adult *Rhagoletis pomonella* (4-5 mm long)  
© Joseph Berger, Bugwood.org



**Fig. 2** Oviposition punctures, tunnelling and misshapen fruit caused by infestation by *R. pomonella* © Dr Y. Wee



**Fig. 3** Larvae of *Rhagoletis pomonella*  
© Dr Y. Wee

- ***Rhagoletis pomonella*** (the apple maggot fly), is an important pest of cultivated apples in North America and a regulated organism (GB legislation listed).
- Adult flies (**Fig 1**) leave **oviposition punctures** on the surface of the fruit, which appear **sunken and discoloured around the outside (Fig 2)**.
- The **main damage is caused by the larvae (Fig 3)**, which burrow into the flesh of the fruit and leave irregular tunnels, which turn brown. As the infestation progresses, **fruit can become distorted, and in severe cases, become a brown rotten mass and prematurely drop**.
- It feeds on fruit from several other plants in the Rosaceae family including *Crataegus* spp., *Cotoneaster* spp., *Prunus* spp. and *Pyrus* spp.
- The most likely pathway for introduction is infested fruit imported from North America.

**If you suspect the presence of the pest, please inform the relevant authority (see over for details).**

For **England and Wales**, contact your local **APHA Plant Health and Seeds Inspector** or the **PHSI Headquarters**, York.

Tel: 0300 1000 313 (please select option 3 when calling)

Email: [planthealth.info@apha.gov.uk](mailto:planthealth.info@apha.gov.uk)

For **Scotland**, contact the **Scottish Government's Horticulture and Marketing Unit**:

Agricultural crops contact the local RPID officer: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/AOcontacts/contacts>

For non-agricultural crops, email: [hort.marketing@gov.scot](mailto:hort.marketing@gov.scot)

For **Northern Ireland**, contact the **DAERA Plant Health Inspection Branch**:

Tel: 0300 200 7847 Email: [planthealth@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:planthealth@daera-ni.gov.uk)

Web: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/plant-and-tree-health>

For additional information on UK Plant Health please see:

<https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/pests-and-diseases/uk-plant-health-risk-register/>

<https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/>

<https://www.gov.uk/plant-health-controls>

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/plant/PlantHealth/PlantDiseases>

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk>