

# BIOSECURITY ALERT

## Fall armyworm update

The exotic pest [fall armyworm](#) (*Spodoptera frugiperda*) has been detected near Emerald in Queensland's Central Highlands region.

This is not unexpected as fall armyworm is highly mobile.

Fall armyworm was first detected on the Torres Strait islands of Saibai and Erub in January 2020. Since then it has been detected in Queensland at Bamaga, Croydon, South Johnstone, Tolga, Lakeland, the Burdekin, Bowen, Bundaberg and now Emerald.

Fall armyworm has also been detected in the Northern Territory and northern Western Australia.

The department is working with industry to find ways to address the serious threat posed by the fall armyworm moth and its larvae to Queensland's agriculture industry.



Fall armyworm larvae in maize by Melina Miles and thanks to GRDC.

Growers should have on-farm biosecurity measures to protect their crops from pests and diseases. More information is available at [farmbiosecurity.com.au](http://farmbiosecurity.com.au) or [biosecurity.qld.gov.au](http://biosecurity.qld.gov.au).

Producers who think that they may have come across fall armyworm are strongly encouraged to photograph and report suspect sightings to the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries on 13 25 23 or to their local biosecurity officer or extension officer.

More information, including the impacts and management advice for key crops, visit [business.qld.gov.au/fallarmyworm](http://business.qld.gov.au/fallarmyworm).