

LET'S STOP QUEENSLAND FRUIT FLY



December's Edition

Takes a look at:

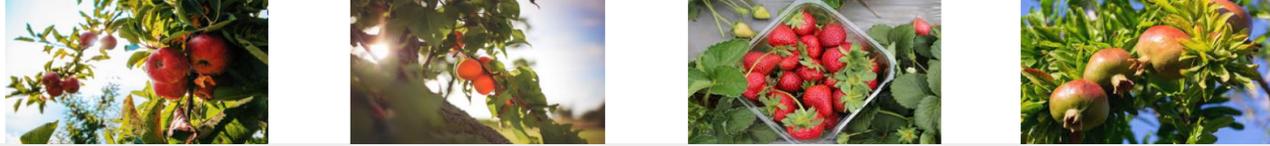
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Young and old fruit fly generations overlap

Current fruit fly populations are made up of a small number of adults and a large number of immatures – eggs and larvae in fruit and pupae in the soil beneath their host plants. This population make-up is due to the fact that old adult flies that survived the winter, have now died out leaving relatively few adult flies in the region, however before dying they had the opportunity to mate and many of those now-pregnant females have found suitable fruit to lay their eggs into.

Numbers are expected to increase until the summer peak is reached which generally occurs in late January/early February in urban areas. This peak represents overlapping fruit fly generations and occurs while there is an abundance of fruit of many different types and species.

Fruit to be on the lookout for



The following fruit are in season and should be monitored closely for fruit fly infestations:

- Apricots
- Avocadoes
- Berries, strawberries
- Capsicums, chillies
- Gooseberries, cape gooseberries (inca berries)
- Kiwifruit
- Late hanging apples, quinces, persimmons, pomegranates
- Laquats
- Mulberries
- Pepinos
- Tamarillos

Traps are recommended to monitor the presence of QFF and can be homemade or purchased from your local produce or hardware store. A visual inspection of fruit is also recommended to check for black sting marks and fruit tissue softening caused by QFF eggs and larvae inside.

Regional trapping grid provides population snapshot

The Goulburn Murray Valley's regional trapping grid features 404 traps positioned at sites across the region. Each trap site has been visited and its contents recorded 3,470 times this season. This information provides valuable year on year comparison data and allows for identification of populations across the Goulburn Murray Valley.

Home garden control strategies

- Remove - unwanted fruit, fruiting plants, before they fruit**
- Monitor - fruit for signs of fruit fly activity - sting marks and traps**
- Imports - reduce the amount of fruit you bring home from unmanaged production areas**
- Clean - pick up fallen fruit and harvest unwanted fruit. Destroy it in plastic bags, or by heating, freezing, etc**
- Trim - keep fruit trees manageable by pruning. Make sure there are no unreachable fruit on the tree**
- Cover - netting or paper covers on fruit, fruit trusses or netting whole plants will protect from fruit flies**
- Treat - fruit fly baiting can be very effective in home gardens especially if neighbours work together**

Rural peak expected to follow urban peak

Although there is some uncertainty, it appears QFF move out of towns and into commercial production areas during the late summer in March and April while urban peaks typically occur in January and February. It is for this reason that so much work can be done in urban areas to control fruit flies – not only to improve production in home gardens but to reduce the spread of flies into nearby horticultural production areas.

Governance Group welcomes Kim O'Keeffe

Greater Shepparton Councillor and local identity Kim O'Keeffe has continued her support for the GMV Regional Fruit Fly Project, filling a formal position on the project's Governance Group.

The Governance Group provides the strategic direction to the project which was established in 2017 to bring together community, industry and government in the area wide management of Queensland Fruit Fly. The Governance Group is pleased to welcome Kim O'Keeffe to the role



Cobram and District Fruit Growers Association – life member awarded

The Cobram and surrounding district produces 87,000 tonnes of fruit and vegetable annually and is integral to the local economy, generating millions of dollars in direct and indirect economic activity. The importance of the area's fruit growing industry was front and centre when the Cobram and District Fruit Growers Association held its Annual General Meeting in November.

Cobram grower Tony Latina was awarded a life member of the Association at the meeting in recognition of the contribution he has made to the fruit growing industry and fruit fly control. Mr Latina was instrumental in the establishment of fruit fly control and prevention while president of the Victoria Peach and Apricot Growers Association, which is now known as the Cobram and District Fruit Growers Association.

Mr Latina was a key driver in an initial fruit fly control pilot program, established about seven years ago which saw the group work with IK Caldwell, local and state government and service clubs to deliver fruit fly Amulet Cue-Lues to every household in Cobram in a bid to reduce numbers. This pilot program was the catalyst for the increased focus on Queensland Fruit Fly awareness and prevention which has been continued through the GMV Regional Fruit Fly project.

"We were at the stage that our markets were restricted because of the barrier created through fruit fly and realised something had to be done,"

Mr Latina said.



Did you know?

One QFF female can produce up to 400 female offspring in her lifetime.



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