

LET'S STOP QUEENSLAND FRUIT FLY



The May Edition

Takes a look at:

- Winter action
- Stop the spread
- Fruit fly hotspots
- Advice for growers
- Free tree removal program

Winter action

Home gardeners and growers are reminded of the importance of picking and picking up, and destroying, unwanted fruit at this time of year. We know adult flies will emerge from infested fruit and hide in relatively warm spots in evergreen plants throughout winter. These flies will avoid traps as it is too cold and their presence won't be detected until spring, when the weather warms up and fruit get stung.

It is essential to pick up and correctly dispose of fallen fruit in your yard, nature strip, nearby creek banks or parks. To correctly dispose of unwanted fruit place in a plastic bag in the sun for five days and then throw out with the garbage or compost.

Action now will help stop the future spread of fruit fly.

Stop the spread

Undertaking a few simple garden and orchard tasks make a huge difference in reducing the spread of fruit fly. Critical tasks include:

- Prune your trees to keep them at a manageable height.
- Check ripe and ripening fruit for signs of fruit fly infestation such as soft patches, brown/black sting marks and maggots. If found, pick fruit and dispose of fruit once fruit has been solarised in a plastic bag for five days.
- If traps are out make sure they are within the use-by date. If not, replace or recharge them with new baits.
- Consider placing traps around the house, especially in evergreen foliage near the house, chook pen or compost heap, if not already out.
- Netting around most trees can be removed unless they still have ripe or ripening fruit.



Fruit fly hotspots

The following hotspot locations have registered high populations and require a concerted effort from landholders in order to achieve a reduction in numbers:

- Koonoomoo
- Cobram
- Merrigum

Action now will help these communities in minimising the QFF pressure next spring.



Advice for growers

If your property is within 500m of urban or peri-urban QFF host plants, unmanaged orchards or feral hosts along roads or channels you should inspect your fruit regularly and monitor your traps closely.

It is important for growers to maintain (or, if not done yet, purchase and place out) their male- and female-targeting fruit fly traps and manually check ripening fruit in their house yards, orchards or nearby for fruit fly infestations. Growers should also ensure they have timely access to approved fruit fly baits and pesticides should trap numbers and/or fruit infestations increase in severity.

QFF management programs should be implemented and traps checked regularly (once a week) for QFF and fruit for sting marks and larval infestations. It is advisable to have a baiting or pesticide program ready to implement if you find evidence of QFF in your crops, house gardens or nearby feral fruiting plants.

Free tree removal

The free tree removal program is open to private and public landholders who cannot manage their fruit trees effectively or wish to remove fruit trees they no longer want.

The program allows for the removal of unwanted and unmanaged fruit trees in non-productive orchards to be removed by fully insured professional contractors at no cost to the property owner. A similar program facilitates the removal and eradication of unmanaged fruit fly habitat from private residential properties and public lands.

The program has been successful in achieving the permanent reduction of suitable habitat for fruit fly to lay eggs and breed.

All tree removal works are carried out by fully insured professional contractors, in consultation with the landholder or responsible authority. The free tree removal program is available within Campaspe, Greater Shepparton, Moira and Strathbogie Shires. For more information contact your participating Council's Customer Service Centre.



The free tree removal program reduces potential QFF breeding grounds.

DID YOU KNOW?

That olives can be attacked by QFF when they are black and ripe.