

LET'S STOP FRUIT FLY



March 2022

Inside this edition:

- Urban to rural fruit fly migration
- Autumn activity
- Queensland fruit fly hot spots
- Fruit fly snapshot
- March action for commercial growers
- Free fruit tree removal program

Urban to rural fruit fly migration

Autumn conditions typically see Queensland fruit fly start to build up in peri-urban and rural locations of the Goulburn Murray Valley (GMV) from late February and through March. It is usual for fruit fly to move out of urban areas and into rural locations at this time due to a lack of food in urban areas. The mass-ripening of fresh fruit in rural areas, combined with irrigated environments provide ideal conditions for fruit fly and allow for maturation, survival and proliferation in urban, peri-urban and rural areas.

While fruit flies are staying on the landscape longer than usual in urban areas as a result of current weather conditions, this significant urban population has started the spread to outlying areas in response to large volumes of ripening and ripe fruit.

If urban growers can control fruit fly in their gardens using management strategies, they will achieve good production and assist commercial growers by cutting off the urban-to-rural migration of fly.



Autumn activity

In autumn high risk fruits include pomefruit such as apples, pears and quinces, early citrus such as mandarins, pomegranates and ornamental fruiting plants such as feijoa.



Garden and orchard hygiene should be undertaken and includes the following activities:

- Pick up any fallen fruit to break the fruit fly lifecycle
- Heat treat or freeze fallen and infested fruit to kill maggots
- Continue to monitor for fruit fly and check traps weekly
- Check late ripening fruit and vegetables skin for sting marks
- Remove unwanted host plants and trees

Queensland fruit fly hot spots

Hot spot locations across the Goulburn Murray Valley, identified through the regional trapping grid include:

Ardmona	Avenel	Barooga
Cobram	Echuca	Euroa
Finley	Katunga	Kyabram
Merrigum	Mooroopna	Orrvale
Shepparton	Strathmerton	Tatura
Toolamba	Tungamah	Undera
Violet Town	Yarrawonga	

Hot spots can be habitual, where they occur each year at approximately the same time or can be a new hot spot where fruit fly have moved into a new area, settle there and proliferate. Active Area Wide Management strategies will over time ease these hot spots.

The above locations are of concern as they could become sites from which large numbers of fruit fly could establish and spread. It is important growers who have orchards in these areas take precautions to reduce the ability of fruit fly to infest fruit and survive in them.

It is recommended commercial orchards situated within 1km of hot spot locations are extra vigilant.

Fruit fly snapshot

- Numbers of Queensland fruit fly trapped in the Goulburn Murray Valley jumped significantly during the first 2 weeks of February
- The jump in fruit fly numbers occurred mainly in urban areas
- Currently, weather conditions are suitable for Queensland fruit fly to mate and lay eggs
- Eggs laid in late summer will become a new generation of pest fruit flies in autumn which will attack autumn crops of fruit and fruiting vegetables
- Ripe or ripening fruit under irrigation are particularly susceptible to fruit fly stinging fruit at this time
- Current weather patterns favour the survival of both fruit on tree/vine/bush and fruit fly

March action for commercial growers

Key actions for commercial orchardists over the autumn period include:

- Ensure fresh (or within use-by date) traps are deployed and are checked as often as possible – certainly once a week.
- Check ripe and ripening fruit for fruit fly sting marks – preferably daily.
- If fruit fly is a constant problem, ensure supplies of control material such as baits and approved pesticides are in storage and within their use-by dates.
- Monitoring ripe and ripening fruit for sting marks
- Check and monitor nearby untended areas – including council and Crown land, roadsides and riverbanks etc

Free fruit tree removal program



The removal of unmanaged fruit trees eliminates a potential breeding ground and helps protect the region against fruit fly. If you're a property owner or home gardener with a fruit tree you no longer want or find difficult to manage, you can apply to have it removed free of charge through the Goulburn Murray Valley Area Wide Management Program's free Fruit Tree Removal Program.

Download or collect an information pack from your local participating Council or at www.fruitflycontrol.com.au and complete and return the tree removal form to your participating Council to have your unwanted fruit tree removed.

DID YOU KNOW?

Queensland fruit fly can lay their eggs into fruit that is lying on the ground. Fruit fly will infest fruit that is on the ground – especially under high population pressure when few on-tree fruits are present.



Station Street, Cobram Vic 3644
PO Box 578, Cobram Vic 3643
t: (03) 5871 9222 f: (03) 5872 1567
e: gmvfruitfly@moira.vic.gov.au



www.fruitflycontrol.com.au

The GMV Fruit Fly Program is supported by the Victorian Government

