

LET'S STOP FRUIT FLY



April 2022

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Post harvest hygiene – break the cycle

Queensland fruit fly are desperate to find fruit to lay the last of their season's eggs into before they switch to winter survival mode. Post harvest hygiene is critical at this time of the year and will help break the fruit fly cycle. The removal of potential host material in gardens, orchards, roadsides and creek banks makes it harder for fruit fly to survive the winter in large numbers. Removing these infestation sources before flies can find them will help break the fruit fly cycle and reduce the number of adults surviving into next spring.

It is essential to clean up and destroy as many fruit fly host fruit as possible. Community members and growers are asked to be on the lookout for feral fruiting plants, untended fruit in abandoned orchards, vacant grounds, creek banks, roadsides and rental properties, as well as front, side and back yards. Even small numbers of fruiting plants will be targeted by fruit fly.



Autumn control and management

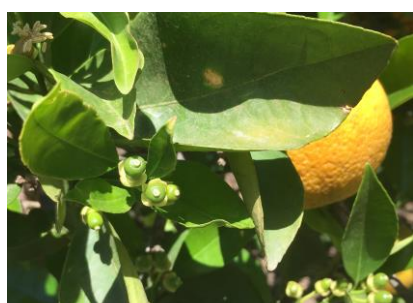
Essential autumn fruit fly management strategies not only impact current populations but will also reduce the number of adults surviving into the spring.

It is recommended the following critical management strategies are undertaken:

- Use of netting or bagging over autumn fruit
- Remove and destroy unwanted fruit (solarise, heat, freeze, burn, drown) – don't compost
- Check ripe or ripening fruit for sting marks and larval infestations
- Clean up fallen and unwanted fruit
- Notifying authorities of nearby untended/feral fruiting plants
- Monitor fruit fly traps for fruit population presence and build-up
- Weekly baiting
- Carry out post harvest clean-up
- Keep house gardens, creek banks, compost heaps and roadsides clean and clear of ripe and unwanted fruit
- Notifying authorities of nearby untended/feral fruiting plants
- Ensure traps, lures, approved pesticides, baits, application equipment are in supply and good condition

Fruit to look out for

High risk autumn fruits include pome fruit such as apples, pears and quinces, citrus, pomegranates and ornamental fruiting plants such as feijoa.



Extra vigilance required

The following locations recorded 12 or more Queensland fruit fly in total in recent weeks. These sites are of concern as they could become sites from which large numbers of fruit fly establish and spread. It is important that property owners, home gardeners and growers in these areas take precautions to reduce the ability of fruit fly to infest fruit and to survive in them.

Ardmona	Merrigum	Shepparton East
Echuca	Mooroopna	Tatura
Euroa	Orrvale	Toolamba
Invergordon	Rochester	Undera
Kyabram	Shepparton	

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.



Weather outlook

Fruit fly activity typically declines in late April and eggs or larvae in fruit or pupae in the ground die due to the cold, however forecast weather conditions suggest the fruit fly season will extend further into autumn than usual this year. Fruit fly activity in the form of mating, egg-laying and consequent fruit damage followed by adult emergence may remain significant into May if mild weather continues and there is a delay in cooler temperatures hitting.

Information provided by the Bureau of Meteorology:

Rainfall: A 60% to 65% chance that rainfall will exceed the average of 25mm to 50mm during April.
NO ADVERSE OR BENEFICIAL IMPACT ON FRUIT FLY SURVIVAL

Maximum temperature: A 55% to 65% chance that maximum temperatures will exceed the average of 24°C to 27°C in April. This increase will only be in the order of a 1°C increase.
SLIGHT BENEFICIAL EFFECT ON FRUIT FLY SURVIVAL

Minimum temperature: A 65% TO 75% chance of minimum temperatures exceeding the average of 6°C to 12°C for April. This increase is likely to be about 2°C.
BENEFICIAL EFFECT ON FRUIT FLY SURVIVAL

Fruit fly control

For more information about fruit fly control and management visit the Goulburn Murray Valley Regional Fruit Fly Program website at www.fruitflycontrol.com.au or collect an information pack from your participating council.

DID YOU KNOW?

Even small numbers of ripe fruit and fruiting plants will be targeted by fruit fly. Fruit fly are desperate to find fruit to lay the last of their season's eggs into before they switch to winter survival mode seeking protein, sugar and shelter.



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