

LET'S STOP FRUIT FLY



June 2022

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Online community survey open

The Queensland fruit fly online community survey is currently open. We're asking property owners and home gardeners to share with us what they know about fruit fly. The survey findings will help us identify opportunities to further support and educate the community about fruit fly control and management.

The short survey will take you about 2 minutes to complete and does not require you to share any personal information.



Visit our website at www.fruitflycontrol.com.au to complete the survey or scan the code.



Top accolade at national awards – Hort Connections Industry Impact Award

The GMV Fruit Fly Area Wide Management Program has taken out the top accolade at the Hort Connections national awards for excellence in Brisbane on the 8 June 2022. The program received the Visy Industry Impact Award from a field of 16 industry candidates from across Australia.

The award recognised the important work that has been achieved in protecting the region's multi-million dollar horticultural industry from the devastating impacts of fruit fly. Over 3000 people attended the event, which is recognised as the premier event for the Australian horticultural industry, and co-hosted by AUSVEG and the International Fresh Produce Association Australia-New Zealand (IFPA A-NZ).

The award independently assessed and recognised the program for implementing a system of technology and business practice outside of the industry norm, as part of the program's area wide management of fruit fly. The theme for Hort Connections 2022 – Growing Together – highlighted the importance for every sector of the horticulture industry coming together to build a stronger more resilient food system to feed local and international consumers. We would like to thank program partners and supporters for their ongoing commitment to protecting the region's horticultural industry from fruit fly.



CAPTION; Senator the Hon Murray Watt Minister for Agriculture, Fishers and Forestry pictured with representatives from the GMV Fruit Fly Area Wide Management Program at the Hort Connections National Award for Excellence in Brisbane. Back from left - Sam Sorrenti, Chris Stillard, Adrian Conti, Tony Siciliano GMV Fruit Fly Area Wide Management Governance Group Chair, Andrew Marin, Shane Sali Greater Shepparton City Councillor. Front from left - Dean Trembath, Ross Abberfield GMV Fruit Fly Area Wide Management Program Regional Coordinator and Marcus Diaco.

PHOTO: AUSVEG

Stop the spread – winter activity



During the winter period empty traps do not mean there are no fruit fly in your garden or orchard, with continued vigilance required over the coming months. Fruit fly adults remain on the landscape in refuges – it's just too cold for them to fly into traps.

Winter temperatures and higher than normal rainfall favour fruit fly population build up. Home heating, which artificially raise localised relative humidity and temperatures (close to the house) will improve the survival of fruit fly eggs, larvae, pupae and adults at that site.

Current weather forecasts point to the probability that fruit fly will survive the winter in greater numbers than in previous colder, drier years so it is important to make sure all fruit and fruiting vegetables are harvested and used or picked up and destroyed.

Winter tasks to help manage fruit fly

- Pick up and dispose of (plastic bag in the sun for 5 days and then throw out with the weekly garbage or compost) any fallen fruit that may be in your yard, on the nature strip, on nearby creek banks or parks.
- Pick any fruit still on the plant and either use or dispose of as above.
- Prune your trees to keep them at a manageable height for next season's fruit picking or for netting.
- Check ripe and ripening fruit for signs of fruit fly infestation – soft patches, brown to black sting marks, maggots. If found, pick the fruit and dispose of it as above.
- If you have traps out – whether they are male-targeting (parapheromones e.g. cuelure) or female-targeting (food-based e.g. yeast or other protein source), make sure that they are within the use-by date. If not, put new ones out or recharge them with new baits.
- If you don't have traps out consider putting a few around the house, especially in evergreen foliage near the house, the chook yard or the compost heap - e.g. the lemon tree.
- Netting around most trees can be removed now but keep it there if you have ripe or ripening fruit still in your yard. Remember that olives can be attacked by fruit flies when they are black and ripe.



Removal of unwanted host plants and trees

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.

Hot spot attention required

The GMV locations with significant hot spots for May to June 2022, recording very high and high classification, were as follows:

VERY HIGH

- Bunbartha
- Invergordon
- Merrigum
- Orrvale
- Shepparton
- Toolamba
- Grahamvale
- Kyabram
- Nagambie
- Shepparton East
- Tatura
- Undera

HIGH

- Ardmona
- Katunga
- Yarraweyah

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?

Current weather outlooks indicate fruit fly will be able to survive at least this part of winter in greater numbers than normal.



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The GMV Fruit Fly Program is supported by the Victorian Government

