

# LET'S STOP QUEENSLAND FRUIT FLY



## September 2022

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### Conditions favourable for fruit fly proliferation

High than usual rainfall and favourable weather conditions for fruit fly are providing early indicators of the strong likelihood of another bad year for fruit fly. Spring action will be important in limiting population peaks that typically occur over the summer months.

A third consecutive La Niña event for late 2022 and early 2023 has been predicted. If this occurs following the favourable spring conditions forecast, we can expect the continuation of strong fruit fly activity and proliferation.

The Goulburn Murray Valley Fruit Fly Area Wide Management Program is continuing to increase community awareness about fruit fly management to allow for increased education on control options. A whole of community effort is required to stop the spread of fruit fly.



### Help prevent fruit fly build-up

Wide-spread action across the entire Goulburn Murray Valley is the best way to reduce the impact the pest has on home gardens and our region's multi-million-dollar horticultural industry. This coordinated approach to the control of fruit fly is known as area wide management.

It is essential that anyone with a fruit tree or home veggie garden take a range of measures to help control fruit fly, rather than relying on one single action.

### Monitor for fruit fly

- Inspect ripe and ripening fruit – be on the look-out for small brown or black sting marks on the surface of fruit, softening patches in the fruit flesh, and eggs or larvae in fruit
- Use traps to detect fruit fly activity – traps can be purchased from nurseries and home hardware stores or you can make your own

### Take action at the first sign of fruit fly

- Control fruit fly by using bait sprays – bait sprays combine a food attractant with an insecticide to attract and kill Queensland fruit fly and are sprayed on the foliage of host plants, not the fruit
- Protect fruit and vegetables with netting – by creating a barrier around fruit it is harder for fruit fly to infest and damage home grown produce

### Help prevent fruit fly build-up

- Remove fruit and fruiting plants early as fruit ripens
- Pick up and destroy fruit that is on the ground
- Correctly dispose of infested fruit
- Reduce the size of your trees so they don't produce more fruit than you need
- Remove fruiting plants and fruit trees you no longer want or find difficult to manage



Pick, prune and protect against fruit fly

### Free fruit tree removal program – open

The removal of unmanaged or unwanted fruit trees has a disruptive effect on fruit fly habitat. Property owners and home gardeners with fruit trees they no longer want or find difficult to manage, can apply to have them removed free of charge through the free Fruit Tree Removal Program.

The program has allowed for the successful removal of potential breeding grounds across the region, making it harder for fruit fly to get a foothold and spread. The free fruit tree removal program is available within Campaspe, Greater Shepparton, Moira and Strathbogie Shires.

Collect an information pack from your local participating Council and complete and return the tree removal form to have your unwanted fruit tree removed or visit [www.fruitflycontrol.com.au](http://www.fruitflycontrol.com.au).

### Removal of fruit fly habitat on public land and roadsides

Community members are encouraged to report unmanaged fruit trees on public land, roadsides, creeks, reserves and channel banks through the Goulburn Murray Valley Regional Fruit Fly Office by emailing [gmvfruitfly@moira.vic.gov.au](mailto:gmvfruitfly@moira.vic.gov.au).

The program allows for the removal of unwanted or unmanaged fruit trees in gardens and backyards, public land and unmanaged orchards and has been successful in reducing the number of potential breeding grounds across the region since its commencement in 2017.

The removal of unmanaged fruit fly habitat is one aspect of the Goulburn Murray Valley Area Wide Management Fruit Fly Program's targeted approach to reducing the spread of the pest through a coordinated, whole of region management strategy, known as area wide management.



Fruit trees on public land and road sides have been removed and replaced with non fruiting trees.



Prickly pear is a common host plant found on roadsides that provide a potential breeding ground for fruit fly

### Monitoring required

Regional trapping data for spring 2021 and autumn 2022 showed that several locations recorded high populations over these periods. This suggests that fruit fly will be problematic in those areas in the coming 2022/23 season. Extra vigilance is required in the following areas:

- Orrvale
- Undera
- Merrigum
- Kyabram
- Grahamvale
- Shepparton

If you live in or near these locations, it is important to place traps out and start a regular monitoring routine in September.

### Fruit fly control and management

For more information on fruit fly control and management visit [www.fruitflycontrol.com.au](http://www.fruitflycontrol.com.au) or scan the QR code.

For assistance in managing fruit fly, contact the Goulburn Murray Valley Fruit Fly Office by phoning (03) 5871 9222 or email [gmvfruitfly@moira.vic.gov.au](mailto:gmvfruitfly@moira.vic.gov.au).



### DID YOU KNOW?

The Goulburn Murray Valley Regional Fruit Fly Area Wide Management Program monitors fruit fly populations through its regional trapping grids, which allow for fruit fly activity to be tracked and recorded.

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