

LET'S STOP QUEENSLAND FRUIT FLY



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Inside this edition:

- Protecting our region through Area Wide Management
- Host plants to be on the look out for
- Free fruit tree removal program to help give fruit fly the boot
- Avoid population explosions
- Regional trapping grid – monitoring and recording tool

Protecting our region through Area Wide Management

The Goulburn Murray Valley Queensland Fruit Fly Area Wide Management Program brings together community, industry and government to apply a coordinated approach to the control of fruit fly. If left unmanaged the effects of the pest can be devastating. An outbreak has the potential to damage our fruit and vegetable markets and is considered a major risk to the region's multi-million dollar horticulture industry.

Area Wide Management allows for the coordination of control strategies across the entire Goulburn Murray Valley region. No single action will stop the spread of fruit fly, instead an integrated management approach is required. The management and control of fruit fly requires continued action from home gardeners, property owners, commercial growers and the broader community. It is important that fruit fly control is undertaken all year around – not just at harvest time.

The activation of control and prevention strategies are an essential aspect of Area Wide Management and include:

- monitoring through trapping
- fruit inspection
- baits
- netting and exclusion
- windfall clean-up and orchard hygiene
- the removal of unwanted and unmanaged trees and host plants



Host plants to be on the look out for



Queensland fruit fly can infest over three hundred varieties of fruit and vegetables. Popular home grown produce susceptible to infestation include apples, stone fruit, pears, capsicums, figs, grapes, citrus, strawberries, tomatoes, passionfruit and pomegranates – just to name a few.

Home gardeners and producers should treat fruit fly on their property through a range of management methods as you would for any other pest. The successful management of fruit fly is a community effort. Fruit fly activity generally increases in spring as the weather gets warmer, however is not restricted to a particular season.

The following plants and trees should be monitored closely:

- black berries
- rosehips
- prickly pear
- apples

It is important to lookout for feral fruiting plants growing on creek banks, roadside reserves, front yards, along with untended and abandoned orchards. Fruiting plants used as street trees, hedges or boundary plants should also be monitored.



Free fruit tree removal program to help give fruit fly the boot

Goulburn Murray Valley residents with a fruit tree they no longer want can help give fruit fly the boot and have them removed through the free Fruit Tree Removal Program. Removal of unwanted or unmanaged fruit trees disrupts fruit fly habitat, making it harder for the pest to spread.

Residents that have a fruit tree they no longer want or find difficult to manage are being asked to contact their participating council and have it removed at no cost, to help protect against fruit fly. The removal of unmanaged fruit trees makes it harder for fruit fly to get a foot hold and spread by reducing potential breeding grounds.

It only takes one unmanaged fruit tree to provide a potential food source for new generations of fruit fly to flourish in. By removing fruit trees and host plants that are unwanted or can no longer be managed it is making it harder for fruit fly to find suitable habitat to lay eggs and breed, resulting in a rapid increase in fruit fly numbers.

Property owners in the participating council areas of Campaspe, Greater Shepparton, Moira and Strathbogie can apply to have a fruit tree removed by contacting their Customer Service Centre and completing the application form.

The tree removal program is provided free of charge to land and property holders and allows for the removal of unmanaged fruit trees and plants from orchards, private residences, and public areas such as nature strips. For more information about the free Fruit Tree Removal Program visit www.fruitflycontrol.com.au



Impact of floods on fruit fly

Floods have little impact on reducing fruit fly activity. In fact, fruit fly may benefit in some ways as very wet weather will cause significant increases in relative humidity and, as a result encourage, bacterial, fungal and yeast growth. These organisms provide a food source for adult fruit flies. Warm daily minimum temperatures associated with wet weather also favour the survival of adult fruit flies, eggs, larvae and pupae.

Flooding for fewer than 5 days will not impact egg and larval survival adversely as pupae (maggots become inactive and change into a brown hard pupae) are tolerant of flooding. They will float to the surface and then move to the edge of the water mass and survive.

Regional trapping grid – monitoring and recording tool

The regional trapping grid is used to identify emerging fruit fly 'hotspots' and allows for the monitoring of populations. Once a 'hotspot' or area of concern is identified, Field Officers are deployed to assist affected landowners implement a series of integrated control measures, necessary to control the hotspot.

The trapping grid allows for real time identification of when and where population build up is occurring. This monitoring method results in current and historical data which allows for the implementation of targeted management activities.

A number of locations have been identified as sites of concern in October and November through the. These include: Cobram *, Shepparton, Mooroopna, Tatura, Kyabram.

* It should be noted - some flies trapped in Cobram urban may be previously released sterile fruit fly that have survived

Fruit fly control and management

For more information on fruit fly control and management visit 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.



DID YOU KNOW?

Spring infestations will be the first generation of fruit fly to attack urban and rural fruiting plants in December through to the middle of May.



www.fruitflycontrol.com.au



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