

# LET'S STOP QUEENSLAND FRUIT FLY



## November 2022

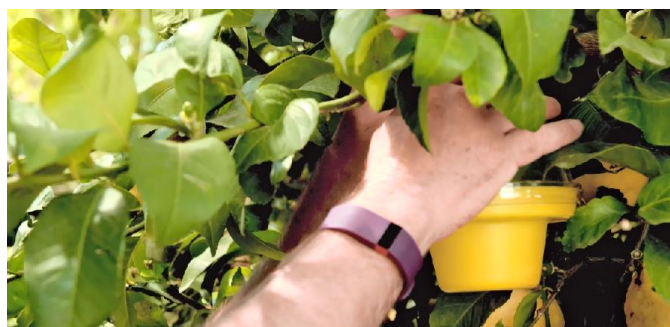
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### Protect against fruit fly

Effective fruit fly control requires the use of a range of different strategies. There is no single action that will stop the spread of fruit fly. A combination of the following should be used to manage fruit fly:

- pick fruit and vegetables as it ripens
- inspect fruit regularly
- prune trees to keep them to a manageable size
- use traps to monitor for activity
- control fruit fly by using netting and baits
- remove unwanted and unmanaged fruit trees



Use traps and a bait spray to control your fruit fly problem - a bait spray is a mixture of protein attractant such as a yeast liquid mixed with insecticide. Dispose of any infested fruit correctly by first killing all flies and eggs by placing fruit in a bag and leaving it in the sun or freezer for 5-7 days. If you've had a problem with fruit fly don't forget to let your neighbours know so they also be on the lookout.

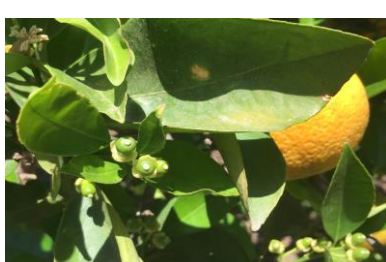
### The facts on Queensland fruit fly

- An adult Queensland fruit fly is around 7mm long or about the size of a child's fingernail. They are reddish in colour with yellow markings.
- Fruit flies are often not discovered until fruit is cut open and their white creamy maggots are noticed inside your fruit.
- Growers do a great job on their farms and orchards, but the community has to do its best to stop the spread too.
- In perfect condition, fruit fly can go from an egg to an adult in 14 days.
- Queensland fruit fly only mate at sunset, when the temperature is above 16°C.



### Fruit to be on the look out for

Fruit fly can infest a wide variety of fruit and vegetables leaving them inedible. Fruit and vegetables susceptible to fruit fly include stone fruit, apples and pear, citrus, strawberries, figs, tomatoes and capsicums, just to name a few. Fruit to be on the look at for at this time of year include late season citrus, loquats and ripening stonefruit. Action now will help to make sure summer fruit is delicious and fruit fly free.



**FREE FRUIT TREE REMOVAL**

Have your unwanted fruit tree removed & help stop the spread of fruit fly!

Goulburn Murray Valley (GMV) residents with a fruit tree they no longer want are being encouraged to have them removed free of charge through the GMV Fruit Fly Area Wide Management Program.

The free fruit tree removal program is currently open and allows for the removal of unwanted or unmanaged fruit trees at no charge to the property owner.

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 harder for fruit fly to find suitable habitat to lay eggs and breed.

All tree removal works undertaken as part of the program are carried out by fully insured professional contractors at no cost to the property owner.

Collect an application form from your participating council's customer service centre or visit [www.fruitflycontrol.com.au](http://www.fruitflycontrol.com.au)

Community members are also 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).

### Increased fruit fly activity

Fruit fly activity is on the rise as we hit the spring peak and start to experience population increases which will continue to build over summer. Fruit fly currently active across the GMV region are adult flies that were able to survive the winter by overwintering. The next generation of flies will emerge from eggs laid by these overwintering flies. Queensland fruit fly numbers will continue to steadily increase over the summer months until April, with a small decline typically experienced during January when very hot, dry weather occurs. Home gardeners, property owners and growers should be fruit fly ready as we enter the peak growing season.

Floods across the region have had 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.



### 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 scientific name for Queensland fruit fly is *Bactrocera tryoni*.

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[www.fruitflycontrol.com.au](http://www.fruitflycontrol.com.au)

The GMV Fruit Fly Program is supported by the Victorian Government

