

LET'S STOP QUEENSLAND FRUIT FLY



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Controlling fruit fly

No single action will stop the spread of fruit fly, instead an integrated management approach is essential in controlling the pest and protecting home grown produce and our region's multi-million dollar horticultural industry.

We know that fruit fly move from urban sites through peri urban areas over summer and into commercial orchards during late summer and autumn. Effective fruit fly management in townships and urban areas early will assist in reducing the impact of the pest on commercial growers later in the season. Home gardeners and commercial growers can deal with fruit fly using a combination of area-wide management strategies. The actions of home gardeners and property owners in urban areas can assist in achieving good production in their own garden and also assist commercial growers by cutting off the urban-to-rural migration of fruit fly.

Garden irrigation in urban areas provide ideal conditions for fruit fly maturation, survival and proliferation. Fruit fly populations can explode in these conditions and then, when crops in urban locations are diminished move out of urban areas, into and through peri-urban places and into commercial orchards. This migration is facilitated by high volumes of fruit in commercial orchards ripening from February through May.

Due to the unusually cold start to the summer, fruit fly have laid dormant for longer than we generally expect to see. We are however now seeing huge spikes in fruit fly as the hot weather continues.

Now more than ever gardeners, growers and property owners will be able to see the signs of fruit fly. Action now is essential. Your fruit fly management plan should be reviewed regularly and adjusted as required.



Fruit fly hot spots

A number of locations have been identified as sites of concern through the Goulburn Murray Valley (GMV) regional trapping grid. If you live in or near the below hot spot locations extra vigilance and control measures are required.

- Cobram
- Koonoomoo
- Kyabram
- Kialla
- Merrigum
- Coomboona

Property owners in these areas should check ripe and ripening fruit and vegetables for signs of fruit fly and remain alert. If you do have a fruit fly problem don't forget to let your neighbours know, so they can also be on the look-out.

Advice for growers

Action for commercial orchardists include:

- Ensure fresh traps are deployed and are being checked as often as possible – once a week
- Check ripe and ripening fruit for fruit fly sting marks – preferably daily
- If fruit fly is a constant problem ensure supplies of fruit fly control material such as baits and approved pesticides are in storage and within their ruse-by-dates
- Monitor untended areas within close proximity to your orchard such as council and Crown land, roadsides, riverbanks, business sites
- Commercial orchards situated within 1km of hot spot locations mentioned above are especially at risk and vigilance with traps and by fruit checking is essential in these areas



Summer action required for home gardeners

Home gardeners and property owners with a fruit tree or vegetable patch can undertake a few simple measures to help reduce the spread of fruit fly:

- Place netting over whole plants, fruiting branches, fruit trusses or individual fruit to protect crops
- Remove unwanted fruiting plants
- Harvest fruit and use or destroy all harvested fruit
- Check ripening fruit for sting marks or maggots
- Place traps out and check regularly for signs of fruit fly
- Work with neighbours to place baits to allow for a greater impact
- If required use baits and approved pesticides to kill fruit fly and reduce populations
- Don't restrict your vigilance – fruit fly can be in fruit in front yards, nearby vacant land, untended crops, roadsides and creek banks

Fruit and vegetable to target

High risk summer fruit and vegetables include:

- Apricots
- Tomatoes
- Plums
- Chillies
- Capsicum
- Nectarines



Free fruit tree removal

The removal of unmanaged fruit trees eliminates a potential breeding ground and helps protect the region against fruit fly. Property owners 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 seen the removal of unmanaged fruit trees and plants from private residences, orchards and public areas such as nature strips, roadsides, channel banks and reserves. The removal of these host plants is highly effective in the control of fruit fly.

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.

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? Increased micro bacterial growth caused by the effects of the La Nina weather event and recent rain creates another protein food source for female fruit fly.

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