

LET'S STOP QUEENSLAND FRUIT FLY



February 2023

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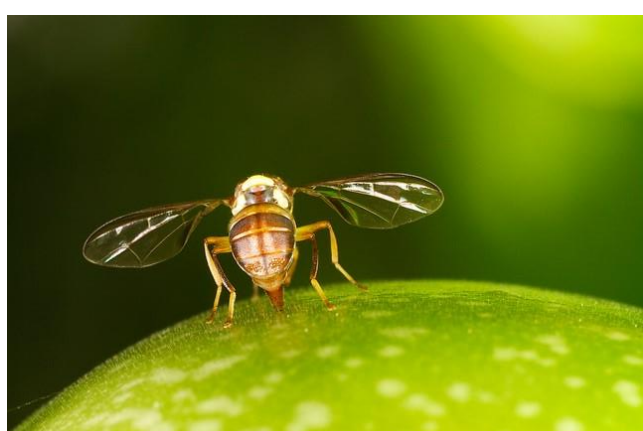
Protect against fruit fly

Fruit fly control is a community effort and requires action from home gardeners, property owners and growers. Anyone with a fruit tree or veggie patch can help protect against the pest.

Queensland Fruit Fly attacks and damages a range of fruit and vegetables, ruining home grown produce and posing a serious risk to commercial growers. Effective and immediate action by all property owners in any given area is the best way to control an increase in fruit fly. Early action is critical in limiting the spread of fruit fly. Control options include:

- Use netting to protect fruiting crops and vegetables
- Inspect your home grown produce regularly
- Solarise any infested fruit by bagging and placing in the sun for 7 days (or freeze for 2 days)
- Use baits and traps to protect against fruit fly
- Prune your fruit trees to keep them manageable
- Remove unwanted and unmanaged fruit trees

Queensland Fruit Fly presents a complex problem for commercial growers and people with backyard fruit trees and veggies. Working together is a key component of Area Wide Management, a pest management strategy employed across a local area or region, in order to reduce the total fruit fly population.



Summer action for growers

Commercial orchardists and growers should review their pest management plan regularly. Essential summer actions include:

- Ensure fresh (within use-by date) traps are deployed and checked regularly
- Check ripe and ripening fruit for fruit fly sting marks – preferably daily
- Ensure supplies of fruit fly control material such as baits and approved pesticides are in storage and within their use-by-dates
- Monitor untended areas within close proximity to your orchard (council and Crown land, roadsides, riverbanks, business sites)
- Commercial orchards situated within 1km of hot spot locations mentioned below are at particular risk from fruit fly and vigilance with traps and by fruit checking is essential in these areas

Extra vigilance required

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

- Grahamvale
- Coomboona
- Merrigum
- Koonoomoo
- Kyabram

Fruit fly activity and trends

- Weather conditions are suitable for Queensland Fruit Fly to mate and lay eggs although hot, dry weather, in some areas, will reduce the numbers of fruit available for fruit fly to sting.
- The heat will kill eggs and larvae in fallen fruit that is exposed to the sun
- Eggs laid during February will become a new generation of pest fruit flies in late summer and autumn which will attack your autumn crop of fruit and fruiting vegetables, if they're able to survive the summer heat
- Ripe or ripening fruit found in February, especially those under irrigation, are particularly susceptible to Queensland Fruit Fly
- Flies active across the Goulburn Murray Valley typically spread from urban areas, through peri-urban sites and into commercial crops during February
- Action now will reduce the next generation of fruit fly



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?

Extreme heat will kill eggs and larvae that is exposed to the sun.

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Logos for participating organizations: Goulburn Murray Valley, Campaspe, moira, BERRIGAN, AGRICULTURE VICTORIA, Fruit Growers Victoria, Cobram & District Fruit Growers Association, Lions Club.

www.fruitflycontrol.com.au

The GMV Fruit Fly Program is supported by the Victorian Government

