

LET'S STOP QUEENSLAND FRUIT FLY



March 2023

Inside this edition:

- > Online community survey open
- > Fruit fly snapshot
- > Autumn activity
- > Queensland fruit fly hot spots
- > Action for commercial growers
- > Free fruit tree removal

Online community survey open

The Queensland fruit fly (Qfly) online community survey is currently open. We're asking property owners and home gardeners to share with us what they know about fruit fly. The survey findings will help us identify opportunities to further support and educate the community about fruit fly control and management. The short survey will take a couple of minutes to complete and does not require you to share any personal information.



Visit our website at www.fruitflycontrol.com.au to complete the survey or scan the code.



Fruit fly snapshot

Autumn conditions typically see Qfly start to build up in peri-urban and rural locations of the Goulburn Murray Valley (GMV) through March and into April. It is usual for fruit fly to move out of urban areas and into rural locations at this time due to a lack of food in urban areas. The mass-ripening of fresh fruit in rural areas, combined with irrigated environments provide ideal conditions for fruit fly and allow for maturation, survival and proliferation.

Qfly activity, has been steadily increasing across the GMV region since September 2022. The pace of increased activity has stepped up considerably since mid-January 2023. Based on Qfly activity over the past 5 years it is likely that activity will continue to increase through March before flattening out during April and decreasing in May.

Autumn activity

In autumn high risk fruits include pomefruit such as apples, pears and quinces, early citrus such as mandarins, pomegranates and ornamental fruiting plants such as feijoa.



Garden and orchard hygiene should be undertaken and includes the following activities:

- Pick up any fallen fruit to break the fruit fly lifecycle
- Heat treat or freeze fallen and infested fruit to kill maggots
- Continue to monitor for fruit fly and check traps weekly
- Check late ripening fruit and vegetables skin for sting marks
- Remove unwanted host plants and trees

Queensland fruit fly hot spots

Hot spot locations across the Goulburn Murray Valley, identified through the regional trapping grid include:

- Tatura
- Cobram
- Ardmona
- Shepparton
- Undera
- Coomboona
- Grahamvale
- Kialla
- Koonoomoo
- Merrigum
- Orrvale
- Kyabram

Hot spots can be habitual, where they occur each year at approximately the same time or can be a new hot spot where fruit fly have moved into a new area, settle there and proliferate. Active Area Wide Management strategies will over time ease these hot spots.

Action for commercial growers

Key actions for commercial orchardists over the autumn period include:

Ensure fresh (or within use-by date) traps are deployed and are checked as often as possible – certainly 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 control material such as baits and approved pesticides are in storage and within their use-by dates.
- Monitoring ripe and ripening fruit for sting marks
- Check and monitor nearby untended areas – including council and Crown land, roadsides and riverbanks et

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 gmvfuitfly@moira.vic.gov.au.



DID YOU KNOW?

Queensland fruit fly can lay their eggs into fruit that is lying on the ground. Fruit fly will infest fruit that is on the ground – especially under high population pressure when few on-tree fruits are present.

Station Street, Cobram Vic 3644
PO Box 578, Cobram Vic 3643
t: (03) 5871 9222 f: (03) 5872 1567
e: gmvfuitfly@moira.vic.gov.au

Logos for: Regional Achievement & Community Awards, Winner Agricultural Innovation Award Victoria 2019, Winner Regional Achiever of the Year Victoria 2019, Campaspe, moira, MERRIGUM, 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

