



March 2023

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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

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

The removal of unmanaged fruit trees eliminates a

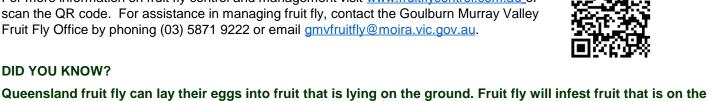
fruit trees and plants from private residences, orchards and public areas such as nature strips, roadsides, channel banks and reserves. The removal of these host plants is highly effective in the control of fruit fly. Collect an information pack from your local

tree removal form to have your unwanted fruit tree removed, or visit www.fruitflycontrol.com.au.

participating Council and complete and return the



Fruit fly control and management



DID YOU KNOW?

ground - especially under high population pressure when few on-tree fruits are present.

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.





