

Queensland fruit fly is found in Victoria and attacks many fruits and vegetables. This fact sheet will help you to look for Queensland fruit fly in your garden and protect the fruit and vegetables you grow from damage.

WHAT DOES QUEENSLAND FRUIT FLY LOOK LIKE?

Queensland fruit fly go through four life stages. The fly can change from an egg to an adult in 30 days in the right weather conditions (i.e. 26 °C).



1. Egg: Queensland fruit fly lay white, banana-shaped eggs inside host fruits and vegetables.

One female can lay up to 100 eggs per day. Eggs are 1 mm long and difficult to see.



2. Maggot: A small cream-coloured maggot hatches from each egg. Maggots eat the fruit, making it rot inside. The maggots grow up to 9 mm long. Once fully grown, the maggot exits the fruit and burrows into the soil.



3. Pupa: Once in the soil, the maggot changes into an oval, brown, hard pupa. Inside the pupal case, the adult Queensland fruit fly develops.



4. Adult: Queensland fruit fly are about 7 mm long and reddish-brown in colour, with distinct yellow markings on the body.

Queensland fruit fly can be found in gardens during spring, summer and autumn.

POPULAR HOME-GROWN QUEENSLAND FRUIT FLY HOSTS

Queensland fruit fly lay eggs inside different fruits and vegetables – these are called ‘hosts’. Some commonly grown examples are shown below.



A full list of hosts is available at www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/qff

MANAGING QUEENSLAND FRUIT FLY IN GARDENS

1. First check for Queensland fruit fly

Traps: Check if Queensland fruit fly is in your garden by hanging Queensland fruit fly traps. Hang traps approximately 1.5 metres high in a nearby shady, evergreen tree. Start this in early spring and continue through until winter.

There are different traps available that attract and catch Queensland fruit fly. These traps can also attract and catch other insects that are good for your garden, so check if you have caught Queensland fruit fly before using any insecticides on your trees or plants.

2. Control methods

If you find Queensland fruit fly in your garden, you will get the best control by using a combination of control methods. Start control methods at least 6-8 weeks before fruit is ripe for picking because Queensland fruit fly can lay eggs inside hard, green fruit.

Exclusion is best: Use insect netting, bags or sleeves to cover fruit after it has been pollinated to stop Queensland fruit fly from laying eggs inside fruit and vegetables. Do not let the netting touch the fruit.

Insect netting



Baits, traps and insecticides: Queensland fruit fly traps and baits lure and catch fruit fly in your garden before they attack the fruit. Look for traps that will kill both female and male flies. Traps alone are not likely to control fruit fly.

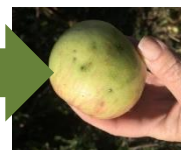
Insecticides are also available that kill Queensland fruit fly. Insecticides can be harmful if used incorrectly - read and follow the label directions.

All of these products can be bought from nurseries, home garden stores and online retailers.

3. Check your fruit and vegetables

Look for sting marks on skins/rinds and for maggots inside fruit and vegetables.

Sting marks



4. Essential garden care (good hygiene)

Pick and use fruit as it ripens. Remove all fruit and vegetables that are rotten, have dropped to the ground and also fruit that you don't want to eat. This will stop Queensland fruit fly from breeding in your garden.

Prune fruit trees so that you can reach them to pick fruit, apply an insect net or spray.

Before throwing out fruit, you need to kill any maggots that may be inside by freezing, microwaving, boiling, or solarising (sealing fruit inside a plastic bag and leaving it in the sun for at least 14 days). After you have done this, the bagged fruit can be put into your rubbish bin.

Do not compost fruit and vegetables infested or damaged by Queensland fruit fly.

If you cannot look after your fruit and vegetable trees, replace them with non-host, ornamental plants (e.g. native wattles or grevilleas).

DON'T SPREAD QUEENSLAND FRUIT FLY

The best way to stop Queensland fruit fly from spreading to new places is to not travel with host fruits or vegetables, especially those grown at home.

Fines may apply if you are found travelling with host produce into certain areas – for details visit www.interstatequarantine.org.au.

More information can be found at www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/qff or by calling the Customer Service Centre on 136 186.