



## June 2024

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### *June Outlook*

Queensland fruit fly (Qfly) numbers trapped in the GMV from late April 2024 to mid-June increased marginally. Weather forecasts for the GMV suggest that the season for Qfly mating has finished (as of mid-May 2024) and minimum temperatures are now too low to allow eggs, larvae or pupae to survive. Adult Qfly are now the only life stage predominantly present and they will be concentrating only on survival until spring – no mating, no egg-laying, just accessing water and protein, seeking refuge from cold, wind and rain and slowing metabolism.

There may be a few days in late June and early July when flies may fly into traps but, overall, there should be fewer flies trapped during June/July 2024 than earlier in autumn/winter.

It is these flies that will be the parents of next season's Qfly population and, consequently, will be the cause of next season's fruit damage. These adult flies should be targeted using orchard hygiene strategies by reducing the numbers of fruit still on-tree or fallen and by using baits, even after harvest (for at least two weeks). Protein traps placed in evergreen trees (e.g. lemons and loquats) near the house, packing shed or other heat-emitting structure will also aid in adult Qfly reduction over winter. Removing unwanted fruiting plants will help greatly.

### *June Garden Tasks*

If you love your fruit trees and are prepared to make the commitment and manage them correctly, you can protect them from Queensland Fruit Fly (Qfly) and enjoy your home grown fruit and vegetables when they ripen. Here's what you can do:

- Pick up and dispose of (plastic bag in the sun for 5 days and then throw out with the weekly garbage or compost) any fallen fruit that may be in your yard, on the nature strip, on nearby creek banks or parks.
- Pick any fruit still on the plant and either use or dispose of as above.

- Prune your trees to keep them at a manageable height for next season’s fruit picking or for protective fruit fly netting.
- Check ripe and ripening fruit (including citrus) and vegetables for signs of fruit fly infestation – soft patches, brown to black sting marks, maggots. If found, pick the fruit and dispose of it as above.
- If you have traps out – whether they are male-targeting or female-targeting, make sure that they are within the use-by date. If not, put new ones put or recharge them with new baits.
- If you don’t have traps out consider putting a few around the house, especially in evergreen foliage near the house, the fowl yard or the compost heap - e.g. the lemon tree.
- Netting around most trees can be removed now but keep it there if you have ripe or ripening fruit still in your yard. Remember that olives can be attacked by fruit flies when they are black and ripe.
- If you have fruit trees that you don’t use – e.g. feijoa, guava – consider removing them completely and replacing them with an attractive non-fruiting plant.

Now is the time to reorganise your garden. Remove any unwanted plants and re-invent it with new ones.

If you are elderly or incapacitated you may not be able to manage your fruit trees. Or you may simply not want to commit the time and effort necessary to prevent your fruit tree’s becoming a habitat for Qfly (which may in turn impact on your neighbours fruit tree’s).The solution is simple. Take advantage of our free urban fruit tree removal program. Qualified arborists will remove your unwanted fruit trees, allowing you the freedom to enjoy or expand your garden.

**Sites of Concern**

Ardmona	Cobram	Coomboona
Grahamvale	Invergordon	Lancaster
Kyabram	Lemnos	Merrigum
Orrvale	Shepparton	Shepparton East
Tatura	Toolamba West	

**Area Wide Management Activities**

**Hort Connect, Melbourne 05/06/2024**

Hort Connect is the largest Horticulture Trade Event in the Southern Hemisphere. The GMV Fruit Fly Area Wide Management Program won the Hort Connect Visy Industry Impact Award in 2022. The 2024 event gave the program coordinator the opportunity to re-connect and discuss the GMV program with colleagues from Fruit Growers Victoria, Cobram and District Growers, AUSVEG, Seeka Australia, Australian Dept of Agriculture, National Fruit Fly Council, Hort Innovation, Plant Health Australia, Macquarie University, Queensland University. This event was held at the Melbourne Exhibition Centre. The host for the Gala Dinner and Awards presentations (attended by over 2000 guests) was Olympian, TV personality and macadamia grower Giaan Rooney who took time out to discuss her passion for horticulture with Ross Abberfield and her willingness to assist the GMV program going forward.



*Hort Connect Dinner and Awards Night – June 2024*

***Billabong Nursery Staff Workshop, Shepparton 19/06/2024***

The program coordinator conducted a fruit fly workshop for the staff at the Billabong Plant Nursery in Shepparton to enable them to give professional advice to gardeners about managing fruit fly in their fruit trees and vegetables throughout winter and into spring. Staff commented that the interactive session was informative and was enjoyed by all. If you visit the Billabong Nursery take advantage of the professional staff advice, service and horticulture products on offer.



*Staff from Billabong Plant Nursery with Ross Abberfield (GMV Fruit Fly Area Wide Management Program Coordinator).*

**Roots of Recovery Workshop, Shepparton 23/06/2024**



*Roots of Recovery Workshop – June 2024*



*ONE FM radio announcer Plemo & Ross*

The GMV Fruit Fly Program assisted the Shepparton Resilience In Recovery Team in conducting a community workshop titled “Roots of Recovery” at St Pauls African House, Shepparton. Renowned horticulturalist, Sophie Thomson (Gardening Australia) provided invaluable advice on practical steps to rebuild and rejuvenate your garden after recent floods, focussing on resilience and sustainability. ‘NO FLIES ON US! provided advice and assistance to attendees about managing and reducing the impact of fruit flies in their home gardens, orchards and vegetable beds and offered the free removal of unwanted fruit trees if they were rehabilitating or re-designing their gardens. ONE FM radio announcer ‘Plema’ invited Ross to do another radio session with him to discuss what home gardeners should do about fruit fly this winter.

**Growing our Gardens Community Workshop, Murchison 24/06/2024**

The GMV Fruit Fly Program assisted the Shepparton Resilience In Recovery team in conducting a community workshop titled “Growing Our Gardens” at the Murchison Community Garden and the Murchison Primary School. Renowned horticulturalist, Sophie Thomson (Gardening Australia) provided invaluable advice on gardening for wellbeing and the benefits of growing your own food at home or in a shared garden. NO FLIES ON US! coordinator, Ross Abberfield assisted with fruit fly advice at both venues and scheduled future fruit fly management workshops at the Community Garden and the Murchison Primary School.



*Gardening Australia Sophie Thomson & Ross*



*Murchison Community Garden Group*

### ***Kennaughs Plant Nursery Staff Workshop, Echuca 24/06/2024***

The GMV Fruit Fly Program coordinator conducted a fruit fly workshop for the staff at the Kennaughs Garden Plant Nursery in Echuca to enable them to give professional advice to gardeners about managing fruit fly in their fruit trees and vegetables throughout winter and into spring. Staff commented that the interactive session was informative and was enjoyed by all. If you visit Kennaughs Plant Nursery take advantage of the professional staff advice, service and horticulture products on offer.

### ***Bunnings Community Garden Corner Workshop, Yarrawonga 26/06/2024***

Following on from a hugely successful Garden Corner Workshop at Shepparton Bunnings on 04/04/2024 and the Nursery Staff Workshop at Bunnings Yarrawonga, the GMV Fruit Fly Program coordinator conducted a fruit fly workshop for the Yarrawonga Bunnings Community Garden Corner on 26/06/2024. The interactive workshop was well received and provided participants with strategies and support to manage and reduce the impact of fruit fly in their home grown fruit and vegetables this winter and spring.



*Bunnings Community Workshop*

### ***Did You Know?***

Many flies die over winter, especially if they are still at the egg, larva or pupa stage of maturation. However, adult Qfly are very adept at moving to warmer sites progressively as day and night temperatures decline.

If the temperature goes down too quickly or too low for the fly to move to, or find, warmer sites the fly will die due to exposure. Some scientists have suggested that complete mortality of Qfly occurs if there are 5 or more days with minimum daily temperature of less than  $-4.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ . But, as mentioned above, it is likely that many Qfly adults have moved out of such exposed sites and into warmer refuges.

When exposed to cold, adult flies that have become acclimatised to the cold weather are unable to move (i.e. they become “torpid”) at about 2°C to 3°C.

It is remarkable how varied the temperature profile is across the landscape. Even within a citrus tree. When midnight temperatures reach 0°C in the air around the tree there are parts within the canopy that register as high as 5°C to 7°C. parts of some plants absorb heat during the day and release it slowly as the temperature decreases overnight. These are the sites where Qfly move to overnight in cold weather.

It is unlikely that Qfly adults will overwinter in deciduous orchards due to higher levels of exposure to harsh conditions. These flies also do not all die out. Some move from the orchard, as the weather cools down, into nearby sites with evergreen trees that offer refuge and stay there over winter. Lemon trees that are located near the house, packing shed or fowl yard, where ambient temperatures are higher due to heating, are often excellent winter refuges for Qfly.

### Fruit fly control and management

For more information of fruit fly control and management visit [www.fruitflycontrol.com.au](http://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 5832 5202 or email [fruitflycontrol@shepparton.vic.gov.au](mailto:fruitflycontrol@shepparton.vic.gov.au)



Information Packs Available From  
Customer Service:

- Campaspe Shire Council
- Greater Shepparton City Council
- Moira Shire
- Strathbogie Shire Council
- Berrigan Shire Council

#### GMV REGIONAL FRUIT FLY PROGRAM



GMV Queensland Fruit Fly actions are funded by the Victorian Government Fruit Fly Regional Grants Program