



August 2024

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August activity

As the weather gets warmer and we move into spring, adult flies will start to awake from over-wintering – a form of hibernation during which they are dormant until its warm enough to fly and mate. Dense evergreen trees such as lemon and loquat trees are favoured winter refuges, so traps in these trees will indicate if they are harbouring Queensland Fruit Fly (Qfly).

Adult flies in warmer areas are looking for carbohydrate and protein: carbohydrate for energy and protein for sexual maturity as they come out of their winter slumber. Having used up most of their energy reserves to survive winter, they need to replenish their reserves to survive. Carbohydrates can come from flowers (nectar) and protein from yeasts, fungi and bacteria growing on branches. The greater the number of flies that are able to survive the previous summer and autumn, the more that will survive the winter by finding warm refuges. These flies are essentially invisible (unless you Qfly traps in their over-wintering habitat) and may be present in high numbers. Early detection is the key.

Impact of Weather

Qfly mate at dusk when the temperature is 16 degrees celsius or more at sunset. After mating they are able to lay eggs into fruit one or two days later. As the temperature increases, so does Qfly activity, up to the premium point of 26 degrees celsius. Beyond this temperature, Qfly activity begins to decline as it seeks protection from the extreme heat (as it does with extreme cold). Conducive weather conditions may promote early fruit set which could become an early target for Qfly. This may increase population numbers produced in the first generation leading into spring.

Inspect and Monitor

The regular inspection of fruit is essential to the early detection of fruit fly. Fruit fly traps are an ideal way to determine if Qfly is present in your garden, yard or orchard. It is recommended traps are deployed throughout the year. Once Qfly is detected, fruit fly baits are the best method of controlling fruit flies.

Look for black marks (like a pin prick) and soft spots on early ripening fruit that may indicate fruit fly stings. If you cut suspect fruit open, hold it up to the light and you may see tiny eggs or small larvae glistening in the fruit pulp. Loquats, apricots and winter citrus are the main culprits during this time of year. If you have stung loquats or late-hanging autumn fruits i.e. pomegranates, quinces and apples, remove them from the tree. Rake up fallen fruit and feed it to chooks or dispose of unwanted fruit by placing it in a black garbage bag, leaving it in the sun for several days (to destroy any eggs and larvae) before disposing of it.

Free Removal of Unmanaged Residential Fruit Trees.

The removal of unmanaged fruit trees eliminates a potential breeding habitat and helps protect the region against Qfly. Property owners and home gardeners with fruit trees they no longer want or find difficult to manage, can apply to have them removed at no cost through the Goulburn Murray Valley (GMV) Fruit Fly Area Wide Management Program's free Fruit Tree Removal Program.

The Program has funded the removal of 120,000 unmanaged fruit trees across the GMV which has permanently reduced the unmanaged Qfly breeding habitat in the region. You can help reduce the spread of Qfly in the GMV by going to our website at www.fruitflycontrol.com.au or by applying through your participating council to have your unwanted fruit trees removed for free.



Ross and Tim Adams (AWL Contracting) on the road and mapping unmanaged feral fruit trees throughout the GMV region. Between August 2023 and June 2024 the program eradicated 7,799 unmanaged feral fruit trees from roadsides in the Shepparton region.

Area Wide Management Activities

Yarrowonga

'NO FLIES ON US!' and the Cobram and District Fruit Growers Association joined with other businesses in promoting local produce at The Made in the Murray Food and Drink Showcase conducted at The Sebel, Yarrowonga on Saturday the 10th of August, 2024.

The event was opened by Dr Graeme Emonson PSM – Moira Shire Chair Administrator and music, demonstration sessions and canapes continued throughout the day.

AC Foods, Legacy Packing, RJ Cornish, Mattina Fresh and Orsida Fresh provided an array of premium fresh fruit for attendees to eat, highlighting the exceptional quality of their fruit and acknowledged by attendee's comments such as, "We've got the best fruit in Australia! Because there's NO FLIES ON US!".

Fruit fly show bags, information packs, seasonal calendars and management posters, explaining how individuals can manage fruit fly to protect their home grown fruit and veg were distributed, with samples of apples, mandarins, pears and lemons.

Local attendees proudly claimed association and support with the local growers, while tourists visiting the area for a weekend gourmet's delight remarked they had never tasted fruit so delicious and full of flavour before.

The event was extremely well attended and a great day was had by attendees and exhibitors alike.

The organisers did a great job organising this community event and attendees generally demonstrated a high level of knowledge about managing fruit fly in the GMV.

Cobram District Fruit Growers Association and Moira Shire Council are core stakeholders in the No Flies on Us! program and actively promote fruit fly education amongst their staff and membership.



Educating the community why the GMV produces the best fruit in Australia, event attendees, General Manager Cobram and District Fruit Growers Association - Karen Abberfield, GMV Fruit Fly Area Wide Management Program Coordinator – Ross Abberfield

Shepparton

No Flies On Us! and Greater Shepparton City Council Tourism hosted an industry and community information stall at the 2024 Fruit Growers Victoria Conference held in Shepparton on the 22nd August 2024.

Guest speakers included

Gregory Lang Professor of Tree Fruit Physiology - Michigan State University	Andrew Bomm CEO - Network Hoist
Stefano Foschi Researcher - UNAPera	Benjamin Sharpe Business Development Manager - Aerobotics
Francesco Brancato Sales Manager - Unitec Asia Pacific	Stephen Tancred Horticultural Consultant - Orchard Services
Demonstrations included: Haeuslers Group	GUSS Autonomous Sprayer Demonstration Field Master Systems Drone Demonstration Croplands Equipment Pty Ltd
PROSPR – Autonomous, multi-use hybrid vehicle	

Fruit Growers Victoria and Greater Shepparton City Council are both core stakeholders in the No Flies On Us! program and actively promote fruit fly education within their organisations and among their staff and membership.



No Flies On Us! Support Officer Whitney Nankervis and Greater Shepparton City Council Tourism Officer

Echuca

The Made in the Murray Food and Drink Showcase conducted its second of two events at Radcliffe's Restaurant in Echuca on Saturday, August 24. A total of 28 vendors and over 450 people attended this event with music provided by Drew Walker and complimentary canapés served by Radcliffe's staff. No Flies On Us! staff educated the attendees about fruit fly prevention and promoted local fruit fly free premium fruit. Plunkett Orchards donated Pink Lady, Granny Smith and Royal Gala apples, Kalafatis Fresh Produce donated Packham pears and Legacy Packing donated Sumo and Dekopon maderins, Cara Cara Navel oranges, Washington Navel oranges and Seedless lemons were sampled and distributed freely at this event. No Flies On Us! staff engaged with the public explaining the uniqueness of each fruit variety on offer, providing sampling plates and distributing fresh fruit to attendees at no cost. No Flies On Us! reinforced the message that quality fruit must be fruit fly free. Educational fruit fly prevention information packs, seasonal fruit fly management fridge magnets and How to Manage fruit fly posters accompanied the fruit give-aways in No Flies On Us! branded show bags. Feedback from attendees indicated high levels of engagement by the community to reduce fruit fly numbers in the GMV.



No Flies On Us! Coordinator Ross Abberfield and Support Officer Whitney Nankervis ready for action in Echuca.

Cobram

Another Industry fruit fly workshop was conducted by Ross Abberfield in conjunction with Bob Curie, for workers and managers alike at the Cobram and District Fruit Growers Association premises in Cobram on 29/08/2024. Attendees also undertook farm chemical use refresher training with Bob Currie. Attendees expected the coming spring and summer to be high-pressure periods for fruit fly in horticultural growing areas. There was general agreement that the growers would be able to manage any fruit fly incursions detected on their properties, but they had no control over unmanaged fruit populations breeding in residential back-yard gardens and public lands managed by the local, state and the federal government. Ross explained that his program created awareness, education and

engagement in the community, industry and government to reduce the economic impact of fruit fly in the region. Fruit fly populations can only be reduced if the wider community takes responsibility for managing fruit fly on the land that they own.



Ross Abberfield and Bob Currie with attendees at the Cobram and District Fruit Growers workshop in Cobram.

Shepparton

The GMV fruit fly program coordinator delivers fruit fly awareness, education and engagement to primary school students throughout the GMV region. Lions Clubs volunteers assist the coordinator to teach school children how to manage fruit fly via presentations, fruit fly question/answer card and board games, construction of home-made fruit fly traps, inspection of produce for sting marks and taking home fruit fly education kits for their parents and friends to read.

To develop fruit fly education in schools further, the coordinator is seeking primary and secondary students with a passion for public speaking. Suitable volunteers will be given the opportunity to develop their fruit fly knowledge and public speaking skills with the coordinator, becoming ambassadors for the GMV Fruit Fly Area Wide Management Program in the community.

Complementing this initiative, the Zone 1 Lions Junior Public Speaking competition was held at the Bouchier St Primary School in Shepparton on August 30. Eight different primary schools attended and students from grades 3,4,5 and 6 competed to represent their school in the competition state finals. An invitation was extended to participating students to become Fruit Fly Ambassadors and undertake fruit fly and public speaking training sessions. After gaining sufficient confidence and knowledge, participants can then refine their public speaking skills by delivering awareness, education and engagement sessions at schools, service clubs, garden clubs and community groups.



Lions International are core stakeholders in the No Flies on Us! program and actively promote fruit fly education and engagement in primary schools, farmers markets, agricultural shows field days and community events.

Did you know?

Fruit from most citrus species, types and cultivars can host Qfly. This includes pomelos, grapefruit, oranges, lemons, mandarins, tangelos, rough lemons, trifoliata fruit, cumquats, calamondins and others. There have been no records of Tahitian (Persian) limes, at the commercial green stage, of being a host to Qff although there are laboratory records of overripe (yellow) fruit, especially damaged ones, able to host Qfly successfully. There are no records of Australian finger limes being infested by Qfly. Calamondins, thin-skinned mandarins (e.g. Imperial, Ellendale, Murcott), Meyer lemons, lemonades and thin-skinned grapefruit are very susceptible to attack by Qfly.

Fruit Fly Control and Management

For more information of 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 5832 5202 or email 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