



December 2024

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Overview

The Qfly forecast is that Qfly populations will increase in the GMV from early summer into autumn. Qfly populations have started to build up in the GMV during the first week of December 2024, after the usual November quiet period. It is likely that average numbers of Qfly trapped will increase over the next few weeks and into the New Year. The slow start to the current Qfly season was due to the predominantly cool weather in the GMV from mid-winter to late August. Since then, temperatures are above those in the previous three years heralding a late, but significant Qfly population build up unless area-wide management strategies against Qfly are firmly in place. The ability of Qfly to survive and proliferate, as measured by degree-days, also points to a potential increase in Qfly populations in late December and beyond.

Land use type

Peri-urban trap sites were trending higher than urban up until the end of November but a rapid increase in Qfly numbers in urban traps during early December leave the two land use types at equal levels of severity. Urban and peri-urban sites trend higher than rural areas at this time of the season. This is due to urban and peri-urban areas having a range of fruiting host plants, warmth and irrigation as well as better refuge than rural areas where crops generally ripen in late summer and autumn in the GMV.

Individual rural sites that do have high Qfly numbers at this time are likely to have persistent Qfly populations surviving in untended home gardens and untended non-commercial fruit trees in the orchard.

Trapping Sites of Concern (potential hot spots as of 12 December 2024)

Grahamvale	Katunga	Kyabram	Lemnos
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Weather

The current season started with low Qfly degree-days until mid-August but then increased rapidly to a higher level than the previous three seasons. This means that Qfly, this season, is more likely to survive and proliferate than in previous years.

The Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) predicts a 50:50 chance that more rainfall will fall during January 2025 than during the 10 year median of 25mm to 50mm. This condition is marginally favourable to Qfly survival and proliferation.

Maximum temperature

Maximum daily temperatures in the GMV predicted for January 2025 are likely (60% to 70% chance) to be warmer than usual (10 year median is 30°C to 33°C). Again, these conditions are favourable to Qfly survival and population build up, especially if under irrigation.

Area Wide Management Activities – It's a Community Effort!

Fruit Fly Area Wide Management (FFAWM) creates awareness, education and engagement in the community, industry and government to reduce the impact of fruit fly. The Goulburn Valley is the largest canning pear producer in the southern hemisphere and the Murray Valley is the largest stone fruit producer in Australia, so reducing the economic impact of fruit fly in the GMV affects us all. When fully funded, the GMV program achieved a 60% reduction in Qfly populations across the GMV and an 80% reduction in Qfly numbers in Cobram. The multi-award winning program has been independently assessed as the best FFAWM program in Australia. Its success is attributed to the combined efforts of the community, industry and government, collaborating to take ownership of managing and reducing fruit fly populations on the land that they own.

Fruit Fly Champion - Nathalia

Vic Dohnt was born in Nathalia 90 years ago and has always resided there. He is quite the local. Vic married in 1956, played for Nathalia in the 1959 Grand Final against Numurkah, and worked as a contractor in the town until his retirement. Vic loves his community and his garden. He is a volunteer at the town hospital, Uncle Bob's Club, Football Club, Nathalia Men's Shed and has been a tireless volunteer with the GMV fruit fly program since 2017. Each year, Vic delivers "NO FLIES ON US!" information packs and creates fruit fly awareness, education and engagement to households in Nathalia. 2024 has been business as usual for Vic; he has canvassed the town and delivered 'NO FLIES ON US!' educational material to every household and



Photo. L to R Vic Dohnt 'Fruit Fly Champion' and Ross Abberfield.

shared his fruit fly free lemons with the residents and visitors to the town. If you see him out and about give him a friendly wave or bip – committed volunteers like Vic are a treasure. Still going strong at 90, Vic represents community volunteers at their best and he is truly a fruit fly champion. Well done Vic, keep on keeping on!

Unmanaged Fruit Tree Removal

The GMV fruit fly program has generated awareness, education and engagement in the community, industry and government consistently since 2017. During this period, it has educated the GMV community to understand that the removal of unmanaged fruit trees will permanently help stop the spread of Qfly in the region. The GMV community response has been to request the coordinator to remove unwanted fruit trees from backyard gardens, unmanaged orchards and to report feral tree locations where they are growing on public lands. To date, the GMV program has removed 121,482 unmanaged fruit trees within the GMV region, 15,282 of these unmanaged fruit trees have been removed/eradicated since August 2023. Remember, every unmanaged fruit tree that is removed means that there is reduced breeding habitat for fruit fly to flourish. If fruit fly awareness, education and engagement continues in the community, industry and government, the GMV region will continue to be regarded as the 'nation's orchard'.

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
Moirra 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