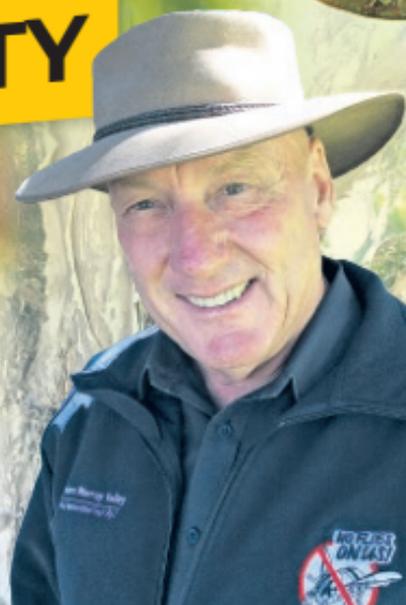


QUEENSLAND FRUIT FLY COMMUNITY UPDATE



Protect your fruit trees this winter

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 (QFF) infestation and enjoy your home grown fruit and vegetables. Here's what you can do:

- Pick up and dispose of (place fruit in a 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 and to assist if netting your trees.
- Check ripe and ripening fruit 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 they are within the use-by date. If not, put new ones out or recharge them with new baits.
- If you don't have traps out consider placing a few around the house, especially in evergreen foliage near the house, chook 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 you no longer want or can manage – consider removing them completely and replacing them with an attractive non-fruiting plant.

Commit to your fruit tree or quit

Now is the time to reorganise your garden, remove any unwanted plants or trees and re-invent it with new non-fruiting options. If you are unable to commit the time and effort necessary to prevent your fruit trees becoming a habitat for QFF (which may in turn impact on your neighbours fruit trees), the solution is simple, take advantage of the free urban fruit tree removal program. Qualified arborists will remove your unwanted fruit trees, allowing you the freedom to enjoy or expand your garden. Contact your local participating Council for more information.

Unmanaged orchards

If you have unmanaged or abandoned orchards that are a breeding habitat for QFF and need to be removed, contact the Goulburn Murray Valley Queensland Fruit Fly Office by phone on (03) 58719222 or by emailing gmvfruitfly@moira.vic.gov.au so you can be guided through the application process.

For more information on QFF control, collect an information pack from your Council's Customer Service Centre.

Funded by the Victorian Government's Managing Fruit Fly Regional Grants Program

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Let's stop Queensland
Fruit Fly



www.gmv-qldfruitfly.com.au