

QUEENSLAND FRUIT FLY COMMUNITY UPDATE

Jobs to turn your attention to in March

Now is the time to undertake the following jobs:

1. Place out, or if you already have them out recharge (with new lures) fruit fly traps in your yard or garden. Use both male-targeting and female-targeting traps. Your local Fruit Fly Co-ordinator, staff from produce stores and Agriculture Victoria can provide advice on what traps to use and where you can obtain them.
2. Check late ripening fruit for fruit fly infestation. If you find infestations, you should remove the fruit and destroy immediately.
3. If QFF have infested your fruit and/or QFF numbers in your traps build to around 5 QFF per fortnight you should undertake active QFF management such as netting, baiting and tree removal. You can receive further advice on this from your local Fruit Fly Co-ordinator, staff from produce stores and Agriculture Victoria.

Anti-fruit fly netting

Anti-fruit fly netting is effective in the control and prevention of QFF. Mesh should be less than 2 mm, UV stabilised and not resting on the fruit.

If applied, accessed and managed correctly, benefits include:

- No fruit fly damage
- Exclusion of birds and possums
- No pesticides need to be used
- If set up correctly, netting is recyclable and a once-only job each season

Netting can be placed over:

- the whole tree
- all fruit on a branch
- a truss or bunch of fruit
- individual fruit

Consider:

- Fruit fly exclusion netting
- Exclusion bags
- Mesh sleeves
- Cloth fruit bags
- Pest protection covers
- Fruit fly netting
- Paper bags
- Exclusion bags made from newspaper

Fruit fly host plant removal

Goulburn Murray Valley Councils offer a free tree-removal service for unwanted or unmanaged fruit trees. Removal of unmanaged fruit trees has resulted in a reduction in QFF breeding grounds across the region. Contact your Council's Customer Service Centre for an application form.

Trapping rates

Trapping rates measuring the numbers of flies trapped per week per trap site (rather than the total numbers of flies trapped over the region) for January and February 2019 in urban areas of the Goulburn Murray Valley were significantly lower than those for February 2018. This drop indicates the community awareness campaign and Area Wide Management of the pest has had a positive effect, however it is important to remain vigilant.

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

NO FLIES ON US!
Let's stop Queensland Fruit Fly



www.gmv-qldfruitfly.com.au