

QUEENSLAND FRUIT FLY COMMUNITY UPDATE

Queensland Fruit Fly hot spots

If you live in the following urban areas which are, at present, registering high Queensland Fruit Fly (QFF) populations, you should commence control programs now.

- Ardmona
- Cobram
- Echuca
- Grahamvale
- Kyabram
- Merrigum

Fruit left on trees or the ground after harvest is especially susceptible to QFF attack. When most of the fruit is harvested the local QFF population remains in the vicinity for a week or two before moving on to another site with ripe or ripening fruit. These QFF are desperate to lay eggs because most of their host fruit has been removed during harvest. Any fruit left, even on the ground, will be a target for infestation by remaining fruit fly. If this fruit become infested and is allowed to remain on site, or is not destroyed effectively, QFF that eventually emerge from it will find evergreen plants to take refuge in over the winter or until the next nearby crop ripens. In Victoria QFF overwinters as the adult fly. Overwintering flies will be the inoculum for next season's populations.

It is highly recommended to commence a bait-application program. This is especially important if you or your neighbours experienced fruit fly problems last season.

It is also highly recommended to ensure your traps are fresh (following label instructions) and placed in suitable locations to intercept QFF coming into your backyard.

Weather outlook

Data from the Bureau of Meteorology forecast that chances of rainfall for May 2019 being above the average of 10-25mm are not likely (a 40-45% chance for the Goulburn Murray Valley). QFF find these levels of rain extremely limiting but, with urban garden watering they can survive, in areas serviced this way, without difficulty. This is due to the use of home gardening watering systems and home heating which artificially raise localised relative humidity and temperatures (close to the house) and improves the survival of eggs, larvae, pupae and adults at that site.

Commit or quit

Now is the time to assess your garden, remove unwanted plants and plan for any new plantings. If you love your fruit trees and are prepared to make the commitment and manage them correctly, you can protect them from QFF infestation and enjoy your home grown fruit and vegetables.

If you cannot manage your fruit trees, you can take advantage of our free urban fruit tree removal program. Qualified arborists will remove your unwanted fruit trees free of charge, allowing you the freedom to enjoy or expand your garden.

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

