

# QUEENSLAND FRUIT FLY GROWER'S UPDATE

Queensland Fruit Fly (QFF) has become established in Victoria's Goulburn Murray Valley (GMV), which will result in the pest surviving the winter and bouncing back in the summer

without the need for new flies to come in from outside the area.

## **Fruit fly have found refuge**

QFF will move side-to-side from a cool place to a warm place until temperatures are even on both sides of its body. If QFF are to survive the cold winter, it will find a permanently warm spot on the otherwise cold winter landscape.

## **Temperatures vary considerably from spot to spot on the landscape**

Even within a single citrus tree it can be 7°C to 8°C higher near the trunk than in the air outside the canopy. Lemon trees situated near heat sources such as residential houses are popular sites for QFF to take refuge from the cold and survive the winter. It is possible that more than one fly can find refuge in one spot. This facilitates spring re-mating as flies don't have to fly far to find each other.

## **What temperature kills fruit flies?**

- **Eggs**—6 to 8 days at a constant 3°C, shorter at lower temperatures, longer when it warms up during the day and cools down at night
- **Larvae**—10 to 14 days at a constant 3°C, shorter at lower temperatures, longer when it warms up during the day and cools down at night
- **Pupae**—zero survival at a constant 4°C to 10°C and below
- **Adults**—zero survival if there are 5 to 7 days in a row where daily minimum temperatures are -10°C to -7°C, some survival after 5 consecutive days where temperatures fluctuate between -5°C and 15°C

## **August 2019 outlook — be on guard**

The optimum winter weather situation for QFF survival into spring is for August and September to receive above average rainfall and above average maximum and minimum temperatures. This situation occurred in the winter of 2016 which resulted in extremely high spring, summer and autumn QFF populations all over the central and northern parts of Victoria.

Weather patterns forecast for August 2019, indicate little chance of abnormal rainfall in August (25 mm to 50 mm).

Temperatures, however, have a 60 per cent to 65 per cent likelihood (maximum temperatures) or 65 per cent to 70 per cent likelihood (minimum temperatures) of being higher than the medians of 15°C to 18°C (maxima) and 3°C to 6°C (minima).

Although temperatures may rise a little when compared with the average the lack of extra rainfall will not be sufficient for a mass-scale QFF overwintering event. However, this may change if September rains and temperatures increase.

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

