

# QUEENSLAND FRUIT FLY GROWER'S UPDATE

## **New fruit fly season approaching**

Queensland Fruit Fly (QFF) trapping rates over the Goulburn Murray Valley (GMV) have started their seasonal upward trend signalling

the start of the new fruit fly season.

This upward trend happens when morning temperatures reach about 15°C and male flies can fly and are attracted to traps. These flies are the survivors from last season which were able find suitable refuge during the cold GMV winter and survive.

It is hoped that the downward trend in QFF trapped so far during the course of the GMV's QFF Management Project will result in a drop in the number of adult QFF overwintering on previous years. This won't be determined until the spring peak in numbers of QFF trapped is reached which generally occurs in early October

## **Spring activity**

The spring peak is the period when many of the adult QFF that survived the winter come out of their slow-moving winter mode and, with increasing day temperatures, start to fly around looking for protein and mating partners. Males are attracted to traps at this time. Females and males will mate, and the females lay eggs in early season fruit one to three days later. These adult flies will then die out leaving their young, the first new generation of the new fruit fly season in fruit as eggs and larvae or in the soil as pupae.

## **Ideal conditions**

QFF mate when the temperature at sunset reach about 15°C to 16°C. Warm temperatures in September mean it's possible that adult flies that survived winter may have already mated. Flies that survived the winter lay into susceptible fruit in the spring and their offspring, the first generation for 2019–20 emerge as new adults in December. These flies damage home garden fruit and vegetables and produce a new, second generation in January/ February—and these flies are the ones that move from urban gardens into rural orchards.

October is the time to continue checking fruit for sting marks, setting traps for monitoring purposes and ensuring you have adequate QFF control material in stock and on-hand. Removal of unwanted fruiting plants or pruning them to manageable/nettable height are also good strategies.

## **October outlook**

The optimum weather situation for QFF survival into spring is for October to receive above-average rainfall and above-average maximum and minimum temperatures.

Weather patterns forecast for October 2019, from the Bureau of Meteorology show only a 30–35 per cent chance of higher than average rainfall (25 mm to 50 mm) in October.

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

