

FRUIT FLY PREVENTION



Temperatures are rising, Queensland Fruit Fly (QFF) is on the move and now is the time to protect your fruit and vegetables as well as Victoria's multi-million dollar horticultural industry.

Citrus fruits are now ripe and a target for QFF. During Spring, plantings of tomatoes, capsicums, eggplants and stonefruit are attractive to QFF. Below is a QFF management strategy you can use in your home garden.

MANAGEMENT STRATEGY - Plant Growth Stage

| | Vegetative growth | Flowering | Fruit formation | Fruit maturity/ harvest | End of growing season |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Prevention | | Exclusion Alternative plants | Exclusion Garden hygiene | Exclusion Garden hygiene Early harvest | Pruning Host plant removal |
| Reduction of numbers | Garden hygiene Trapping Baiting Pruning | Garden hygiene Trapping Baiting | Garden hygiene Trapping Baiting Cover spraying | Garden hygiene Trapping Baiting Early harvest Cover spraying | Garden hygiene Trapping Pruning |
| Control | | Garden hygiene Cover spraying | Garden hygiene Cover spraying | Garden hygiene Cover spraying | Pruning |

EXCLUSION Physical barriers are an effective means to stop female QFF reaching fruit. Netting, bags and sleeves are available from your local farm supply, nursery or hardware retailer.

GARDEN HYGIENE Pick your fruit as it ripens. Collect and destroy rotting and unwanted waste fruit in sealed plastic bags. Leave the bags in the sun for five to seven days to destroy the larvae. Do not add unwanted fruit to your compost or place directly into your garbage bin.

PRUNING Prune to allow for easy harvesting and application of netting, cover sprays and baiting.

COVER SPRAYING Insecticides may be used to directly control adult QFF on contact and destroy eggs and larvae (seek advice from your local chemical or home garden retailers).

TRAPPING Most fruit is attacked by QFF as it matures so you should monitor regularly. You can do this by using traps or by checking for small puncture marks called stings on the skin of the fruit or vegetable.

BAITING Protein attractant mixed with insecticide and spot-sprayed onto the trunk or foliage of host plants (seek advice from your local chemical or home garden retailers).

ALTERNATIVE PLANTS Remove unwanted QFF host plants from your property and replace with plants that don't bear fruit.

EARLY HARVEST Plant and harvest early to remove host material before QFF numbers have built up.

DO YOU HAVE A FRUIT TREE IN YOUR RESIDENTIAL YARD YOU NO LONGER WANT?

Then apply to have it removed at no cost through the Urban Fruit Tree Removal Program. Contact your local Council for an application form. Email: gm-vfruitfly@moira.vic.gov.au

NO SINGLE ACTION WILL STOP THE SPREAD OF QFF, AN INTEGRATED APPROACH IS ESSENTIAL!

