

Queensland FRUIT FLY-Backyard MANAGEMENT GUIDE

Queensland fruit fly is a destructive pest & a biosecurity problem for the Riverina horticulture industry & backyard fruit & vegetable growers

NOTICE

Fruit fly control is no longer regulated. This means the government does not do your fruit fly control & there are no more roadside inspection bays - **IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO CONTROL QUEENSLAND FRUIT FLY (Qfly for short)**

Monitoring for Fruit Fly Trappings & Larvae in Fruit *Monitoring Traps*

- Purchase a suitable fruit fly trap from a nursery or agricultural supplier.
- Hang traps in fruit trees about 1.5m high. See picture to right/bottom left
- Monitor weekly for fruit fly trappings in spring, summer & autumn; fortnightly in winter. *If you need assistance identifying fruit fly contact the Fruit Fly Campaign Coordinator-phone number on back of this guide.* See Qfly picture to the right/bottom right
- Count & remove any flies trapped & record to compare to following weeks trappings. Although this does not indicate how many flies are about it WILL give you an indication if populations are increasing. NOTE: traps only attract male flies & do not control the population. This means we have to bait spray with an attractant lure & a registered chemical to kill female flies in the area. (See instructions below on Backyard Treatment of Fruit Fly Infestations-Bait Spraying)
- Replace wicks in trap every 3 months

Monitoring fruit:

- Cut/break open numerous pieces of fruit weekly & inspect for fruit fly maggots (see picture top right of fruit fly maggots in apricot). If there are maggots inside, see instructions below for treatment.

Backyard Treatment of Fruit Fly Infestations

Remove fruit off trees/plants

- Remove fruit from trees or vegetable plants such as tomatoes, capsicums & chillies weekly or daily if you can.
- If maggots are in fruit, bag up all fruit off trees/plants. Tie the bag, making certain of no holes in bag.
- Place bag in full sun to 'cook' the maggots for a couple of days.
- Bin the bag after maggots in fruit are 'cooked'
- Proceed with bait spraying program every 7-10 days whilst fruit are susceptible.
- Continue with monitoring according to seasonal conditions

DID YOU KNOW?

- ~ That the female Queensland fruit fly 'stings' the fruit to lay her larvae? A 'sting' mark will be present on the attacked fruit
- ~ Although wine grapes are not a preferred host for Queensland fruit fly, table grapes are fruit fly host

Apricot crop infested with fruit fly maggot December 2013



Photo: Tammy Galvin

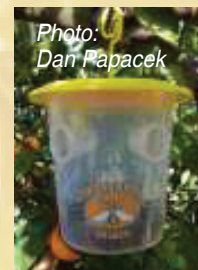


Photo: Dan Papacek



Photo: NSW DPI

Susceptible Vegetables are:

Tomatoes
Capsicums
Chillies
Eggplant



*Will fruit fly attack the humble pomegranate?
Answer: YES*

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Protein Bait Spraying for Backyard Fruit & Vegetable Growers

About protein bait spraying combination

- As mentioned previously it is necessary to bait spray to kill both females & males.
- Protein bait spraying is applied to the trunk or foliage of tree or foliage of plant and NOT THE FRUIT.
- Protein bait spraying is the most effective and integrated pest management (IPM)-friendly method to control fruit fly
- Protein bait spraying is a combination of a liquid protein lure used to attract female flies. As the female NEEDS a feed of protein prior to laying the larvae the combination must include the protein lure as well as the insecticide- *SEE YOUR NURSERY OR CHEMICAL RETAILER FOR PRODUCTS & RATES.*

How to apply protein bait spray

- a) Wear protective clothing when applying bait.
- b) Mix protein lure/attractant & insecticide as per label instructions. Do not apply more than is recommended- this is where you can do environmental damage. Again, *SEE YOUR NURSERY OR CHEMICAL RETAILER FOR PRODUCTS & RATES.* A suitable application unit is a household spray bottle such as this picture shown below:
- c) Spray or paint the protein bait mixture onto either the upper trunk or branch of a tree OR spray the protein bait mixture onto the underside of foliage, avoiding any fruit. The spray site should be high enough to prevent children and pets from reaching the bait.



Other unexpected fruit hosts:

Loquat (*Eriobotrya Japonica*) and **Feijoa** (*Pineapple Guava, Acca Sellowiana*)



Photos: Wikipedia

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for Backyard Fruit Fly Problem

Please note that these methods do NOT control fruit fly-they only protect your fruit & vegies from the pest.

Pruning

- This can be used to make the tree a more easily managed size to harvest fruit and also to implement Qfly control methods such as exclusion, baiting and sanitation.

Exclusion

- This method creates a physical barrier to stop the Qfly from reaching your fruit and vegetables. Examples are nets, bags and sleeves. These can either protect individual fruits or the whole plant or tree. Contact your nursery or agricultural retailer for purchase of products.

Sanitation

- Pick up and destroy all fallen or unwanted fruit from the garden and seal in a black plastic bag. Leave in the sun for several days and then remove. This will stop Qfly maggots in the fruit from moving into the soil to pupate and later emerging as adult Qfly.

Early harvest

- Harvest fruit early to avoid Qfly infestation and maggots in the fruit. Plant susceptible vegetables, such as tomatoes, capsicums, chillies & eggplants early or plant early maturing varieties to avoid large numbers of fruit flies.

Fruit tree removal

- For consideration & respect for the Riverina horticulture industry & your fellow community members remove fruit trees that are hosts to Qfly if you do not or cannot look after them.

For further information:

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Home visits are offered for fruit fly identification

CONTACT: Local nurseries and agricultural product retailers for Queensland fruit fly control/management products & rates of protein lure & insecticide rates.



Local Land Services
Riverina



Horticulture Australia