

QUEENSLAND FRUIT FLY GROWERS UPDATE

Weather outlook

The weather outlook for September forecasts less rainfall and higher temperatures than usual.

What does this mean for fruit fly?

Lack of rainfall will impact adversely on Queensland Fruit Fly (QFF) survival both as overwintering adults (flies that survive winter) and as larvae in fruit. Water scarcity makes it difficult for adults to survive, however rising temperatures are beneficial to fruit fly survival. If maximum temperatures exceed the average September maxima of 15°C to 18°C, there is a high likelihood that overwintering adult flies will find each other, mate and lay eggs.

Now is the start of the next fruit fly season. It is time to clean up fruit from last season and any new season fruit. Keep a close watch on apricots, loquats and any other early season fruits.

Likely September activity

Typically QFF start to move out of their warm, winter refuges into parks, gardens and orchards looking for food and places to mate and lay eggs in September. Adults that have overwintered will die soon, however they will mate and lay eggs into fruit before they die.

Things to watch out for in September

Flies that have overwintered in your orchard, yard, park or riverbank will start to be attracted to fruit fly traps with a trapping peak typically noted in September. This activity is overwintering flies and these flies do not have long to live, mate and lay eggs.

It is highly recommended to check fruit for infestations and remove if infested or protect fruit if it is not. You can protect fruit with baits, traps and repellents as well as protective coverings.

Now is the time to:

- Put QFF monitoring traps out
- Check traps at least once a week
- Check for the presence of young and ripening fruit
- Check fruit for sting marks and/or associated rot development
- If QFF are present net fruit and/or bait crops with fruit fly baits
- Pick and destroy all infested fruit properly

These steps are the best strategy to reduce the impact of overwintering QFF on next season's crops.

For assistance managing QFF, contact (03)5871 9222 or gmvfruitfly@moira.vic.gov.au.

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

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ON US!**
Let's stop Queensland
Fruit Fly

