



April 2024

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Avoid winter build up

Now is the season for fruit flies to build up before winter so that they will survive the colder months and start their new season of fruit damage next spring. This is where orchard (or post-harvest) hygiene becomes important. You will help break the fruit fly cycle by successfully cleaning up your orchard, home garden and nearby untended land of potential fruit fly host material:

No fruit = No fruit fly.

Commercial growers in or near sites of concern should also be aware of fruit flies being nearby and implement fruit fly control:

- Monitor fruit fly traps for Qfly population presence and build-up
- Check fruit for fruit fly infestation
- Weekly baiting
- If the fruit fly problem is too severe, use approved pesticides
- Carry out after harvest clean-up i.e. strip trees and mulch fallen fruit
- Keep house gardens clean too, as well as creek banks, compost heaps, roadsides
- Notify authorities of nearby untended/ feral fruiting trees
- Ensure stock of traps, lures, toxicants, approved pesticides, baits, application equipment, etc. are in good supply and good condition.

Sites of Concern

Ardmona	Merrigum	Invergordon
Echuca	Mooroopna	Tatura
Euroa	Orrvale	Toolamba
Cobram	Rochester	Undera
Kyabram	Shepparton	Numurkah

The abovementioned sites are of concern as they could become sites from which large numbers of Qfly could establish and then spread, so it is important that members of the GMV community who have gardens and orchards in these areas take precautions to reduce the ability of Qfly to infest fruit and to survive in them.

WEATHER OUTLOOK AND ITS IMPACT ON FUTURE FRUIT FLY ACTIVITY

Normally, fruit fly activity declines in late April so that any eggs or larvae in fruit or pupae in the ground in the GMV past mid-April will die due to the cold.

But - forecast weather conditions for April 2024 will not be damaging to fruit fly survival and activity. They suggest that the fruit fly season will extend further into autumn than usual. Fruit fly activity in the form of mating, egg-laying and consequent fruit damage followed by adult emergence will remain significant possibly into May if the weather does not turn cold quickly.

Area Wide Management Activities

Macpherson Media Group once again proudly sponsored the attendance of the GMV Area Wide Management Program at the Seymour Alternative Farming Expo between the 12th to the 14th of April inclusive. The GMV program delivered fruit fly awareness, education and engagement to over 500 people who received show bags, information packs and enjoyed fresh premium produce from GMV growers. Tasting boxes of apples, pears, pomegranates, persimmons, quinces, lemons and eggplants and capsicums were generously donated by McNab Orchards, Boosey Fruit, RJ Cornish & Co, Sunlands, Orsida Fresh and Karen Abberfield (General Manager, Cobram and District Fruit Growers Association - CDFGA).

The constant stream of public enquiries were serviced by Ross Abberfield and Kim Mansell (GMV Program) and volunteers Patsy Lansdown (President Lions Club of Shepparton and Zone 1 Chair), Ian Tagg (member Lions Club of Shepparton) and Karen Abberfield (CDFGA). The program received great feed-back from the public who overwhelmingly believed that fruit fly AWM was necessary to effectively manage and reduce the impact of fruit fly, a big thank you to all concerned!



Mitch McNab (McNab Orchards, Chair Fruit Growers Victoria, Young Farmer of the Year 2023) and Ross Abberfield (GMV Fruit Fly Area Wide Management Program Coordinator).



Ross, Patsy, Ian and a backyard gardener at the Seymour Alternative Farming Expo.

On the 4th of April, 2024 Ross Abberfield (Program Coordinator) and Kim Mansell (Program Admin Support) delivered a workshop at Shepparton Bunnings Garden Corner.

Acknowledging the workshop with Greater Shepparton City Council, Shepparton Bunnings Activities Organiser Sarah Batho said “the feedback I had from the customers was absolutely sensational, they really enjoyed their talk and information as well as the information packs, they were blown away by the information they received. I spoke with almost all of the attendees and every one of them had a positive review and thought that it was informative and beneficial, so much so that they are looking at asking Ross and Kim to attend Garden Club meetings at other events.

We also had Ross attend for team training and the team are still talking about it. A few of them walked past and commented how good the information session was!

We will definitely look to have Ross and Kim in the Future.”

Ross Abberfield also provided an information session at the Shepparton Bunnings Trade Show on the 18th of April and discussed fruit fly awareness, education, engagement the community, promoting the free unmanaged fruit tree removal program that the public can take advantage of.



Ross, Sarah Batho and Kim at the Bunnings Garden Corner Workshop on 4th April 2024.

Did You Know?

Some overseas species of pest fruit flies do hibernate in the ground over winter as pupae but Queensland fruit fly (Qff) do not.

In Victoria it is estimated that any eggs and larvae in fruit or pupae in the soil present before mid-April will complete their maturation to adult flies before winter sets in. These adults will then look for refuge from cold weather, wind and rain to ride out winter until the weather starts to warm up again.

In most parts of Victoria, the adult fly will need to mate when weather conditions are amenable after winter even if it had mated before the onset of winter.

In cool winter climates, such as those in most of Victoria, eggs and larvae remaining in fruit or pupae in the ground after mid-April will die due to adverse winter conditions.

The adult Qff survives the winter in warm refuges above ground. It does not pass the winter in the ground as a pupa.

Fruit fly control and management

For more information of fruit fly control and management visit www.fruitflycontrol.com.au or scan the QR code. For assistance in managing fruit fly, contact the Goulburn Murray Valley Fruit Fly Office by phoning 03 5832 5202 or email fruitflycontrol@shepparton.vic.gov.au



Information Packs Available From
Customer Service:

- Campaspe Shire Council
- Greater Shepparton City Council
- Moira Shire
- Strathbogie Shire Council
- Berrigan Shire Council

GMV REGIONAL FRUIT FLY PROGRAM



GMV Queensland Fruit Fly actions are funded by the Victorian Government Fruit Fly Regional Grants Program