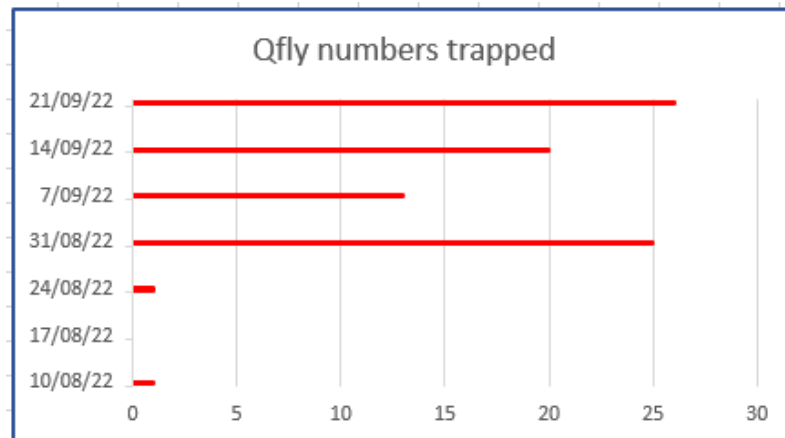


BKIT Fruit Fly Newsletter – September 2022

It's been 7 weeks since we deployed the first of our RapidAIM sensor traps and we have been getting regular detections of Qfly being trapped.

During that time, we have also assisted many ratepayers with BioTraps (female Qfly traps) and MAT cups (male pheromone lures), and we've been collecting data from those as well.

The following graph shows numbers of Qfly that have been reported as caught in all traps since early August:



These numbers do not include male Qfly that have been attracted to the MAT cups (unless the MAT cups are fitted inside a male Pro Trap). A total of 86 fruit flies trapped so far, so as a community, we have significantly reduced the number of flies that can breed this spring. Remember, every female fruit fly that survives winter can be responsible for 1 million fruit flies by the following winter!

What can you do now?

The most beneficial thing we can all do at the moment, is to be monitoring and reporting fruit flies that are caught in traps. If you notice a considerable increase in numbers in your traps, then consider purchasing another trap or two.

Put traps in your loquat trees

If you have any loquat trees, you should be moving a BioTrap into each tree soon in preparation for possible attack on the fruit. Fruit Flies can sting fruit weeks before it is ready to harvest and the BioTrap may attract and kill a breeding female Qfly before she finds fruit to lay her eggs in, or if not, it will certainly attract any immature fruit fly that hatch from loquats.

It would also be helpful to hang a MAT cup about 10 metres from a loquat tree (in another tree with foliage), to attract and kill any male fruit flies.

We will continue to send weekly text message reminders to check your traps and report numbers caught. We will also send a reminder when your BioTraps are due to be refilled and MAT cups are due to be replaced.

Any questions?

If you have any questions about fruit fly, don't hesitate to ask! If we don't know the answer, we have many people to contact to get the right advice.

Thanks for continuing the war against Fruit Fly!