

FRUIT FLY CONTROL STRATEGIES

Baiting and trapping

BAIT sprays and traps intend to kill Queensland fruit fly before they attack fruit and can be bought from hardware stores, nurseries and online. Bait sprays and traps are helpful in reducing the overall population, however, they will not stop a pregnant female from attacking fruit.

Nets or paper bags

PLACE insect nets, sleeves over trees

and plants or bag individual fruit to prevent QFF reaching the fruit, which are available from your local nursery or hardware retailer.

This is the best option for back yards and may mean you need to reduce the size of your tree and crop for this to work.

Good garden hygiene

PICK fruit and vegetables as they ripen. Unwanted produce and produce

that has fallen must be placed in a sealed plastic bag and left in the sun to destroy QFF larvae.

Tree removal program

FOR people living in urban and private dwellings in rural areas who have decided that managing for QFF is too difficult, too expensive, and too time consuming.

Sunraysia residents have until October 31 to register for the tree removal program before its termination.



Fruit fly maggots were found in loquats at Cardross this week.

Signs of infection

Pest body sounds warning on fruit devastation

THE recent discovery of fruit fly larvae in loquat fruit is a "warning" to growers and home gardeners, according to the Greater Sunraysia Pest Free Area (GSPFA) committee.

The larvae were this week found in loquat fruit on a commercial vineyard in Cardross, which are generally the early indicator for fruit fly activity.

GSPFA's regional co-ordinator Deidre Jaensch said the discovery "sounded the alarm" that flies that have survived over winter, have mated and laid eggs.

"Loquats are the first fruit to ripen in the season, but any fruit that is ripe now is susceptible including navel



Deidre Jaensch

and grapefruit," she said.

"It is imperative that everyone checks their fruit every week for larvae by cutting fruit open, because it's not always easy to see if a fruit has been infested from the outside."

also be picked as it ripens because the longer it was left on the tree, the greater the chance for flies to lay their eggs.

"If you find infested fruit, all the fruit on the tree must be strip-picked immediately," she said.

"The fruit must be sealed in a plastic bag or screw-top drum and left in the sun until the larvae are killed.

"If these larvae are not killed now they're the ones that will grow into adults and infest stone fruit before Christmas time."

Preventive methods include baiting and trapping, placing nets and paper bags over trees and plants and good garden hygiene

nation of different methods and co-ordinating efforts with neighbours provided the greatest chance of successful control.

She added it was "frustrating" that it was taking so long for people to get the message and take action.

"If you want to grow fruit and vegetables in Sunraysia, you have to manage for fruit fly and these measures need to be in place now and continue during the fruiting season," she said.

"If you don't put control measures in place now, you can't complain when you're faced with infested fruit at Christmas time.

"The flies aren't waiting for everyone to decide to get