

MEDIA RELEASE

Fruit Fly Bites

23 March 2017

Council is continuing to receive numerous requests in relation to fruit fly instances. Buloke Shire sits outside the fruit fly exclusion zone, so there is no state government funding to address the situation.

Queensland fruit fly (QFF) attacks a wide range of fruits and fruiting vegetables, leaving them inedible. Sufficiently warm weather has persisted into autumn allowing fruit flies to continue through their life cycle providing that a suitable host fruit or fruiting vegetables are available.

A combination of methods is required to control QFF in your garden. Successful management of QFF is also heavily reliant on the cooperation of your neighbours and township. So get together with those in your area enduring QFF damage to strategize how best to beat it.

Whilst exclusion methods such as netting are the best remedy to prevent fruit fly attacking your plants, there are also simple, low cost ways to manage the situation.

Garden hygiene is imperative. Pick and use any fruit as it ripens, don't leave it on the plant for fruit flies to attack. Collect and destroy any rotting or unwanted fruit hosting QFF, whether it is on the ground or still on the plant. Unwanted fruit can be microwaved to kill any maggots inside prior to being disposed of. Alternatively, place the fruit in a plastic bag, seal the bag and leave it in the sun for a week, or place it in a freezer for two days. The bagged fruit can then be discarded in your garbage bin. Do not add unwanted fruit to your compost or worm farm, or put it directly into your garbage.

Remove any unwanted or unmanageable "host plants" from your property and replace them with non-host alternative plants.

You can find more methods to treat QFF at www.buloke.vic.gov.au/news-and-consultation or www.preventfruitfly.com.au/



End release

For further information contact Media and Communications Officer, Travis Fitzgibbon on 1300 520 520 or tfitzgibbon@buloke.vic.gov.au