

Wallsend Nurseries

95 Lake Rd Wallsend 2287
Ph: 49 501066 Fax: 49 516960 Email: gardens1@tpg.com.au



Fruit Fly Control

Fruit fly causes heavy losses of fruit as well as extreme disappointment to the home gardener.

Fruit fly can only be controlled by diligent measures & is *not* to be taken lightly. It causes millions of dollars worth of damage annually to the fruit production industry. Indeed, it is an offence and punishable by law not to control fruit fly in the home garden, due to its impact upon commercial crops.

Remember.....neglected backyard fruit trees & tomato plants are breeding grounds for fruit flies. *Unless the control measures outlined are carried out, it is recommended that the plants or trees be removed.*

Local tree preservation orders *do not apply* to the pruning or removal of fruit trees so you can remove them without fear of council or state retribution.

Heavy penalties are provided in all areas for failure to control fruit fly including fines up to \$1000.

Fruit fly lays its eggs in all fruit (except for pineapples), including those of flowering peach, quince, crabapple and other fruit-bearing ornamental trees and shrubs. Even Citrus are affected today.

The adult lays its eggs in the ripening fruit. The larvae hatch after a few days and tunnel into the fruit that they were laid in. Fruit affected by the fruit fly can be cut into pieces and the damaged areas examined. They will be seen to be soft and brown, often with small tunnels, and often rotting from secondary fungal infections. Maggots will be seen in the fruit flesh, white in colour, and looking very much like the larvae of the house fly. They will eat the fruit flesh, totally destroying it, and making it unappetizing to humans. After the larvae develop fully they must pupate to become the adult fruit fly. The rotten fruit will often fall to the ground. Fully mature larvae will then leave the fruit and burrow into the soil to pupate. After several months the adult flies emerge to infect new season's fruit.

Ripening fruit are particularly susceptible to attack.

The fruit fly DOES NOT lay its eggs in blossoms or young fruit.

It is most active after the end of December although can be active at almost any time of the year in warm areas.

Control Measures

The owner or occupier of any premises is required to apply the following controls if they have fruit bearing plants growing on the property:

1. To apply a poison bait OR cover sprays as prescribed in this leaflet. Home gardeners are advised to apply the prescribed sprays instead of baiting.

2. At intervals not exceeding 3 days, to destroy all infected fruit, whether on the tree or on the ground.

Destruction can be achieved by (a) boiling or burning the fruit, (b) totally immersing the fruit in water inside a watertight covered container for a few days or (c) securing the fruit inside a plastic bag and exposing the bag to the sun for a few days.

3. To remove all quince fruit from the tree by April 30 each year in all areas of the state. The chemical to be used is called Rogor® (Dimethoate) It may be called Rogor 40 or Rogor 100

There are many different bait preparations that will help as well. These include traps and sprays.

This is to be applied at the rates recommended on the container and at the specified intervals for the chemical. Withholding times must be observed as well.

Please note Rogor® can cause damage to some crops so it's advisable to seek advice as to suitability for use on a specific crop.

When spraying ensure that all fruit and foliage is thoroughly wetted with the chemical for effective control.