
FREE TREE REMOVAL

HELPING AFTER YEARS OF DISAPPOINTMENT



Greater Sunraysia Pest Free Area's free tree removal program has been successful in helping residents who have struggled to manage their trees for Queensland fruit fly (QFF) since the initiative launched almost four years ago.

In recent years QFF has become widespread throughout the region and many gardeners have been distressed at losing their home grown fruit to fruit fly each year.

Kathy O'Donnell planted a Nectarine tree five years ago with the vision of one day walking out her backdoor, picking and enjoying her own beautiful Nectarines.

"I absolutely love Nectarines, they are my favourite fruit," Kathy said.

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STOP
FRUIT FLY
IT'S UP TO ALL OF US!

Tree removal at a glance

- If you can't get rid of fruit fly, despite your best efforts, you need to make sure you are not the cause of infestations for our valuable horticultural industries.
- We can't have the lifestyle we once did -- fruit trees are hard, constant effort and managing them properly can be expensive.
- Victorian residents who live between Yelta and Kerang, either in town or on a residential block in rural areas, can have their unwanted fruit trees removed by professional arborists at no cost to the householder.
- Conditions apply. For more information or to register for free tree removal, visit www.pestfreearea.com.au or contact GSPFA on (03) 5022 0327.
- The work is funded by the Victorian Government's Managing Fruit Fly Regional Grant Program

Two years later, the tree was about three metres tall and bore fruit for the first time. You can imagine Kathy's utter disappointment when she found all the fruit infested with fruit fly.

Over the next couple of years, Kathy tried to manage the tree for fruit fly, placing monitoring traps in the tree and also spraying it. Unfortunately each year Kathy missed a few sprays.

"The sprays need to be applied weekly and we weren't home a few times. Just that one gap in the spraying was enough for fruit fly to infest the fruit."

After four seasons and not one piece of edible fruit, Kathy's disappointed had turned into incredibly frustrated with the time and money she was putting in, with no positive results.

"I saw the advertisement for the free tree removal; it was just what I needed, I was over it and wanted it removed."

Kathy's property was also surrounded by commercial horticultural grapevines, both wine grapes and organic table grapes.

"I was concerned about spreading fruit fly to the commercial grapes and causing them financial loses," she said.

Although it was a hard decision, Kathy was happy with her final decision.

"Now that the Nectarines gone, I'm going to plant an Ornamental tree in the yard, which won't be as much work."



Kathy requested the stump to be left a little higher than usual, so she could use it as a stand.