

FIGHTING FRUIT FLY IN THE COMMUNITY



When Allan Bryce moved into his new home in Swan Hill in December 2018, he discovered that it also came with a lot of Queensland fruit fly.

As a “big-city boy”, Allan didn’t know the first thing about fruit trees, let alone how to manage a fruit fly infestation.

But with the help of Greater Sunraysia Pest Free Area field officer Tricia Witney, Allan has succeeded in keeping fruit fly out of his garden.

“I’m overwhelmed by the level of support I’ve received,” Allan said. “Tricia knocked on the door just after I moved in, and she’s guided me every step of the way over the past 12 months – she told me exactly what to do to fix the problem.

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

How Allan got fruit fly free

- During the dormant period, Allan pruned his trees to just under 2 metres so he could easily cover them with nets and reach all the fruit.
- Allan waited 2 – 3 weeks after flowering to put the nets on, making sure to secure them at the base of the tree with tape. Allan planned to move the nets from his stone fruit after harvest to his apple trees.
- Every three months Allan hung up new male traps and refill his female traps to help control fruit fly.
- Allan would have removed his trees if they were infested again. But by adopting fruit fly control strategies, Allan and his family and friends got to enjoy beautiful fruit.



“I said last year that I would either have fruit that’s free of fruit fly or I would remove the trees. It was very important to me that it succeeded because I would have kept my promise – if the fruit was infected this year, then there wouldn’t be a next year.”

Allan has several fruit trees in his garden, including peaches, plums, apples, mandarins and lemons. Before he moved in, the trees were large and hadn’t been pruned for some time. The fruit was abundant and needed to be thinned – it was infested with larvae, and fruit flies could be seen moving around the trees.

“The trees had been let go and they were getting to a height where you couldn’t pick the fruit,” Allan said.

“Tricia said my best bet was to cut them down to fence height – just under two metres. She told me to prune them in the dormant period and gave me some very helpful information on how to do it.”

When Tricia visited again in spring, she found that Mr Bryce had pruned the trees and was ready to purchase some nets.

“Tricia told me what to look for in a net and how to put them on our trees once the fruit had set,” Allan said. “She also told me where I should hang my male and female traps.”

Allan followed Tricia’s instructions to the letter and his efforts this year certainly paid off. All his peaches were enjoyed by family and friends – and there wasn’t a fly or maggot to be seen!

“I love being able to say that I grew them myself – it gives me a real sense of pride and satisfaction,” Allan said.

“It’s a total novelty for me because I’ve only ever lived in big cities and doing something like this is a first. It’s a totally different style of life, and it’s keeping me going.”

If you would like help in implementing some of these control strategies in your garden, contact the Greater Sunraysia Pest Free Area.