
FACTOR IN FRUIT FLY (AND THE HOME ORCHARD) INTO IPM



Switching remote WA for a viticultural property at Nyah was a tree-change that presented Lisa and Bill Ferguson with their first opportunity to grow household fruit – but managing fruit fly has been a key to their bountiful harvest.

“We bought the place about 10 or 15 years ago, but four years ago we shifted across the country to move onto the property,” Lisa explained.

“We’d spent virtually our whole lives and raised our family in northwest Western Australia at Karratha, 1500 kilometres from Perth. It’s incredibly hot there of course, and the fruit just cooks, but also with water restrictions, there just isn’t the water to grow them,” she said.

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

Non-commercial fruit trees on horticultural properties

- Fruit trees around the house present a risk to property-wide fruit fly control strategies that may already be in place – but they're easy to overlook or forget
- Removing domestic fruit trees removes the problem – but if your household does want to keep non-commercial fruit trees, they need to be closely managed
- The simplest strategy is implementing home-block and garden trees into the overall property Integrated Pest Management Plan – that way management will be done when it should be, and fruit fly problems can't escalate out of sight
- Growing winegrapes? Winegrapes are generally not considered a high-risk commodity for fruit fly – but they certainly infest wine grapes in high-pressure years.
- Every grower has a neighbourhood responsibility to help protect higher-risk crops like table grapes and stone fruit
- GSPFA community support officers are always happy to visit commercial properties, and agronomists and the local Ag store are a great source of information and advice.

“So we came here with no experience at all about fruit growing, and while the commercial winegrapes are managed by our neighbour, the rest was up to us!”

Finding 20 fruit trees, including apples, cherries, oranges, mandarins, lemon, lime, pears and stonefruit, the couple was very keen to retain the orchard. But they soon encountered issues with Queensland Fruit Fly.

“Of course, we wanted the fruit harvest, so we needed to deal with the fruit flies, but we also knew we had a responsibility to manage fruit fly for our neighbours' crops too. So we got in touch with the Greater Sunraysia Pest Free Area field officer,” Lisa said.

“Tricia (Witney) showed us how to get the trees back to a manageable size, how to put nets on and how to set up baits for both male and female fruit flies. It was all new to us, but we've put those things in place and now we've started to harvest the fruit we hoped for,” she said.

