

Effective fruit fly control starts now

Mildura home gardeners can learn how to prune their fruit trees to promote healthy growth and protect them from Queensland fruit fly at a community workshop this month.

The Fruit Fly Murray Valley (formerly Greater Sunraysia Pest Free Area) fruit tree pruning workshop will be held on Saturday 23 July from 11.30am to 3pm at Chaffey Secondary College.

Participants will be able to practice their pruning skills and hear from experienced gardener Bill Lewis about how best to prune stone fruit, citrus and pome trees.

Fruit Fly Murray Valley regional coordinator Narelle Beattie said taking the time to prune fruit trees in winter paid off in the warmer months.

"Controlling Queensland fruit fly in your home garden starts in winter," Narelle said.

"Pruning not only helps your trees produce good quality fruit, but it keeps your trees at a manageable size so you're able to fit a net over them in summer.

"Covering fruit trees with insect netting is the simplest way to grow beautiful, clean fruit – and it's also one of the cheapest ways to control fruit fly."

Narelle said the Fruit Fly Murray Valley team would be at the workshop to provide information about fruit fly and everything people need to know about using insect nets to protect their trees.

"We'll also be giving away door prizes and one lucky participant will win a pair of secateurs that were kindly donated by Bunnings Warehouse Mildura," she said.

Participants will need to bring a clean pair of good, strong secateurs, safety glasses, gardening gloves, and wear covered footwear.

Lunch will be provided upon arrival.

Registration is essential at fruitflymv@mildura.vic.gov.au or text/call 0438 335 661.

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