

Make your own Queensland fruit fly trap



Homemade traps are an inexpensive way to help you control Queensland fruit fly in your garden.

Traps and bait recipes take just minutes to make with items you probably have at home.

They are often less toxic than commercial traps. Many recipes don't contain any chemicals at all, while others only have a small amount of cloudy ammonia.

The liquid in homemade traps attracts fruit flies into the trap. When the flies can't escape, they drop into the liquid and drown.

To get the best results from your trap, replace the liquid every 1–2 weeks, especially in hot weather, so it doesn't go off and attract ants.

Place at least one trap per tree. Avoid hanging them in the sun as they will quickly become hot houses that repel flies.

Check traps for flies every week during spring, summer and autumn, and then fortnightly in winter or if there are a couple of warm days (around 15°C).

Refill traps outside or in a well-ventilated space and on a solid surface.

At a glance

Make traps using items and ingredients you may already have around the house

Hang 1–2 traps in and around each tree

Replace baits at least every 1–2 weeks, or sooner if they become full of flies or the liquid evaporates too quickly

Check traps for fruit flies – weekly in spring, summer and autumn and fortnightly in winter

Fact sheet: Make your own fruit fly trap

Homemade trap instructions

1. Start with a plastic bottle (soft drink or similar) with a lid.
2. Cut 2–3 holes in the bottle about the size of a five-cent piece, 10cm from the top. The holes need to be big enough for fruit flies to get in and in the right position on the bottle so the flies can't escape.
3. Add in the bait made using one of the following recipes.
4. Screw on the lid, then tie twine around the bottle's neck and hang from your trees.

Fact: Homemade recipes and traps are effective at drowning flies in the same liquid that attracts them. But unfortunately, they may also catch other insects.

Orange juice bait

- 1 cup fruit juice (with pulp)
- 1 tablespoon cloudy ammonia (available from supermarkets and hardware stores). Read label and follow safety directions
- 1 drop dish-washing detergent

Yeast and juice brew

Source: *Helen Rudd, Mildura*

- 1 litre long-life fruit juice
- 1 litre water
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 2 teaspoons dry yeast
- 1 drop dish-washing detergent

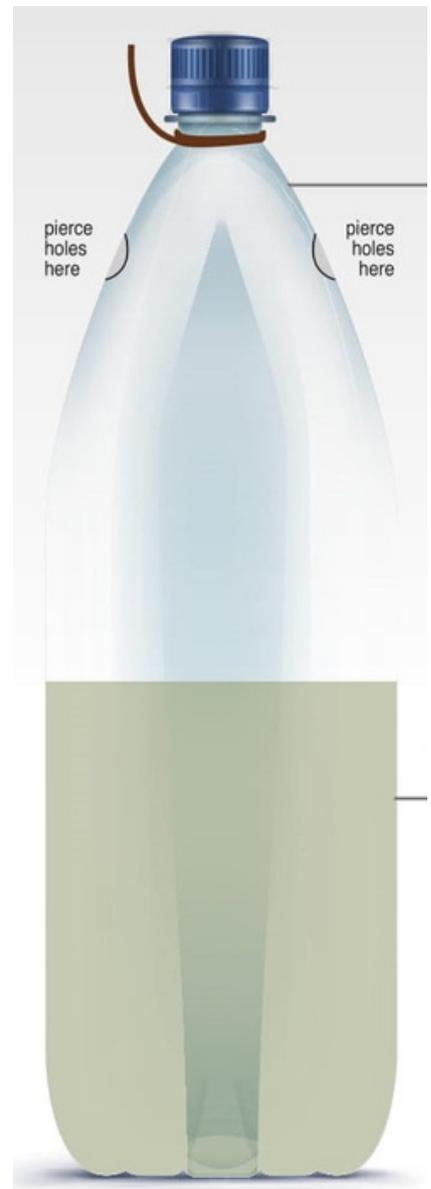
Vegemite bait

Source: *Gardening Australia*

- 1 spoon-full Vegemite
- 1 spoon-full sugar
- Peelings from an orange or lemon
- 1 litre water
- 1 drop dish-washing detergent

Vanilla essence bait

- 1 litre water
- 1 teaspoon vanilla essence
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon dish-washing detergent
- 2 tablespoons cloudy ammonia (available from supermarkets and hardware stores.) Read label and follow safety directions
- 1 drop dish-washing detergent



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