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FRUITION®

Garden Fruit Fly Trap



Background

Fruit flies are common pests in home gardens and commercial agriculture in Australia, and are responsible for the loss of a wide range of fruit and vegetables across the country each year.

The main fruit fly species in Australia are Queensland fruit fly (QFF; *Bactrocera tryoni*) in the eastern states of Australia and Mediterranean fruit fly (Medfly; *Ceratitis capitata*) in Western Australia. From time to time, populations of QFF establish in Western Australia and parts of South Australia and are subject to eradication campaigns. Over the last few years, there has been a population of Medfly established in Adelaide and there is an active campaign underway to eradicate it.

QFF damage a broad range of fruits and vegetables, with some 124 host plants being recorded for this species. Similarly, Medfly has a wide host range which includes more than 350 different plants.

QFF does not breed year-round but passes the winter in the adult stage. The QFF life cycle takes approximately four weeks to complete in summer and up to two months in winter. Adult females can live for many months, and there may be four or five overlapping generations each year. Adult females lay up to seven eggs in each piece of fruit they sting; the eggs hatch in two to three days and larvae feed in the fruit before infested fruit falls to the ground and the larvae exit into the soil to develop into pupae.

Adult Medflies can live for two to three months, with the life cycle taking 28–34 days to complete in summer and 60–115 days in winter. Like QFF, Medfly activity and hence damage is greatest during warmer months. When temperatures start to fall, Medfly will survive for extended periods as eggs or larvae in fruit, or as pupae in the ground. After mating, females search for a suitable ripe fruit in which to lay eggs; one female can deposit up to 300 eggs in a piece of fruit. Eggs laid in unripe fruit may hatch as the fruit ripens. Like QFF, infested fruit falls to the ground and the Medfly larvae exit into the soil to develop into pupae.

Female fruit flies are attracted to ripening fruit, berries, or susceptible vegetables to lay their eggs.

It is important to begin fruit fly control early in the season when fruit is at the 'hard-green' stage, around the size of a walnut. In the home garden situation, this is especially important because there is usually a wide range of different fruit and vegetables available from early spring in which fruit flies can

breed and establish for the summer. If control is not started early, populations will grow and cause problems later in the season.

Fruition® Garden Fruit Fly Traps are specifically designed to attract and trap a wide range of pest fruit flies in the home garden using a unique, patented combination of trap shape, colour and attractant lures.

Fruition Garden Fruit Fly Traps attract and trap all of the main pest species of fruit fly, including Queensland fruit fly (QFF; *Bactrocera tryoni*), lesser Queensland fruit fly (*B. neohumeralis*), Jarvis' fruit fly (*B. jarvisi*), cucumber fly (*B. cucumis*), and Mediterranean fruit fly (Medfly; *C. capitata*).

Important tips for using Fruition Garden Fruit Fly Traps

Trap placement:

1. In fruit trees

- I. Traps should be placed in the trees to be protected before the fruit becomes attractive to fruit flies. This is when the fruit is hard and green, around walnut size.
- II. Use one trap per tree for trees up to 3 m in height, and two traps per tree for larger trees.
- III. Hang the traps at around 1.5–2.0 metres above the ground on the northern side of the tree in the outer part of the canopy so that the trap is visible but not exposed to constant sunlight.
- IV. For trees greater than 3 m in height, hang a second trap on the southern side of the tree.

2. In vegetable crops

- I. Traps should be secured to tomato stakes or similar rigid supports at a height just above the crop canopy and before the crop becomes attractive to fruit flies. This is as soon as the fruit/vegetable forms.
- II. Use one trap per 10 m x 10 m area.

Fruition Garden Fruit Fly Traps last for up to 12 weeks.

However, traps should be replaced earlier if the sticky surfaces are covered by fruit flies or foreign objects, or the sachets are missing or trap itself is damaged.

It is essential to start trapping early and well before the crop ripens.

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