

COMMUNITY BANDING TOGETHER TO CONTROL QUEENSLAND FRUIT FLY

Sam Oresti from Mildura is a keen gardener and looks forward to picking fruit from his trees each year, however, in the last few years it has been much harder "We just had too many trees to look after each year - it was becoming a losing battle against Queensland Fruit" said Sam.

So, Sam was happy to take advantage of the Greater Sunraysia Pest Free Area (GS PFA) host tree removal program to remove two peach trees.

Sam not only arranged to reduce his fruit tree to a manageable number he also helped two of his neighbours to have their trees removed.

By reducing the number of host trees in the area Sam now finds it much easier to manage the trees he has kept. "I have some fruit trees left such as an olive, a fig tree and a persimmon, but I look after them and put nets on them - we are eating figs now which are clean, no fruit fly!" report Sam in March 2019.



Sam Oresti is winning the battle with QFF by reducing the number of host trees he has and using insect nets to keep QFF away from the remaining trees. Credit: GSPFA

Glenis O'Connell from St John's Anglican Church at Kerang also arranged to remove several trees from the church grounds including a high risk Loquat tree.

Glenis found the process of removing several trees from the church grounds was prompt and efficient. "We had trees that were dropping fruit and causing a bit of a mess - as well as an obvious fruit fly risk," Glenis said.

"So, we thought the sensible and responsible thing to do was to have them taken out, and it really was a very simple process." Loquats are perfect for female QFF that have survived the cold winter months as they usually ripen in spring when little other fruit is available.





Neil Sherriff, The Grainshed, at Swan Hill Church of Christ has also taken tavanage of the GS PFA tree removal program to help the Church do their bit in the fight against QFF.

“We had a row of olive trees in the church grounds that weren’t being used at all so the fruit was just dropping on the ground,” Neil said.

“It was causing a mess, but the real concern from our point of view was that it was creating a potential site for fruit fly to infest, so we decided to do something about it and see if we could have them removed under the program. “It was easy and efficient and there was no mess left behind. We couldn’t be happier.”

Did you know that Queensland Fruit Fly can infest olives, the Swan Hill church of Christ removed their olive trees to avoid QFF infestation. Credit: GSPFA

Collie and Tierney First National Property Manager Sue Connelly has arranged for removal of fruit trees from several of her landlords’ properties.

“Quite a few landlords have taken the decision to remove fruit trees from their rental properties and it’s been a win-win,” Ms Connelly said.

“They feel they’re doing the right thing by the community and horticulture – but neither the landlord or the tenant have to manage a fruit tree, or deal with the mess of rotting fruit if a tree’s not looked after,” she said.

“On each of the occasions, once the decision is made, it was just so easy to have the GSPFA organise the removal, they did such a great job, no mess at all was left at the property.”



Professional contractors are engaged by the GS PFA to remove trees and will leave your property looking clean and tidy. Credit: GSPFA.

FURTHER INFORMATION

“If you live in town or on a residential block in rural areas of the Victorian stretches of the GS PFA you may be eligible to have host trees removed for free. All the hassle taken care of.

(conditions apply)

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