



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

*29 April 2020*

### **Autumn is not the time to relax on Queensland Fruit Fly**

Autumn is the best time to clean up Queensland Fruit Fly and get a jump start on the pest for spring – and the Greater Sunraysia Pest Free Area (GSPFA) staff are here help.

Entomologist assisting GSPFA Andrew Jessup advises that the best way to reduce the impact of Queensland Fruit Fly on fruit and vegetables next season is to clean up now.

“With many people at home and spending more time in the garden, now is a great time to get out and tackle those autumn jobs to control fruit fly,” Mr Jessup said.

“If fruit fly can breed up in autumn, these adult flies will be the ones that survive the winter and be ready to cause new outbreaks in spring,” he said.

“With less fruit around and flies desperate to survive they will attack any fruit they can find, even if it’s on the ground.”

GSPFA Regional Coordinator Narelle Beattie said free tree removal was still available to people who wanted trees removed permanently.

“Victorian residents who live between Yelta and Kerang, either in town or on a residential block in rural areas, can have their unwanted fruit trees removed by professional arborists at no cost to them,” she said.

“We’d love to chat through the options with anyone who thinks that a permanent solution is what they’re looking for,” she said.

Ms Beattie said with COVID-19 Stage Three restrictions in place, support staff were unable to reach out through community events and activities for the time being.

“But we’re still here to help. Our staff are available for advice and tips to help residents in their garden and we can supply traps if needed through contactless drop off,” she said.

“Autumn is the time to remove any fruit left hanging on trees, pick up any fallen fruit, prune your trees to keep them at a manageable height for next season, and refresh your traps to catch any flies trying to breed up before winter”.

“If people have decided they no longer want to spend their time and money manage their trees for fruit fly, they need to make sure they’re not the cause of infestations for our valuable horticulture industries.”

Fruits to look out for in autumn are feijoas (pineapple guava), apples, pears, quinces, nashis and fresh Chinese dates (Jujube).

To register for free tree removal, visit [www.pestfreearea.com.au](http://www.pestfreearea.com.au) or contact GSPFA on (03) 5022 0327.  
\*Conditions apply.

For advice and tips to help you in your garden or how to access traps you can contact your local GS PFA Staff

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