

Fruit fly control

Sept 2018



Mediterranean fruit fly, *Ceratitis capitata*

If you grow fruit, it's likely you know the pain and expense of controlling Mediterranean fruit fly (Medfly), the fruit fly established in the majority of Western Australia's south-west. Whilst there's no 'silver bullet', there is a lot that can be done to reduce numbers.

General advice – If you want to get the best from your fruit trees you must control fruit fly all year round and prune plants and trees to a manageable size.

However, if you are not collecting the fruit for eating, you are better off stripping the fruit as they start to form or removing the plants or trees completely.

How to control

- **Remove** ripe, fallen or infested fruit.
- **Install** homemade or commercial fruit fly traps.
- **Bait** regularly (Naturalure™, Nature's way or similar baits).
- **Bag** fruit or **net** trees with fruit fly netting or exclusion bags.

Fruit disposal options

- **Soak** in a bucket of water with an oil film (3 days).
- **Seal** in black plastic bag and place in the sun (3-5 days).
- **Boil** fruit (stove or microwave).
- **Freeze** (2 days).

Only after treatment can fruit be composted or thrown in the bin.

The best thing to do is ensure fruit fly can't breed on your property, and to enlist your neighbours to do the same. Everybody wins!

Want to know more?

How to make a fruit fly trap, report unfamiliar flies or find out what fruits Medfly like, please visit our website: agric.wa.gov.au/medfly

Did you know?

There are worse fruit fly species than Medfly, such as Queensland fruit fly, that haven't established in WA. So if you see unfamiliar flies or sting marks or maggots in your fruit or vegetables, please photograph it and report it to us for identification and the right advice.



Report suspect pests!

MyPestGuide™ Reporter
via online or app
mypestguide.agric.wa.gov.au

Pest and Disease Information Service
+61 (0)8 9368 3080
padis@dpird.wa.gov.au

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