

Queensland Fruit Fly

INFORMATION ABOUT FRUIT FLY SUPPRESSION BLOCKS

Q – Why are we using suppression blocks?

A – An outbreak of Queensland fruit fly has been found in your area. We will be using suppression blocks, together with other methods of fruit fly control, to eradicate the outbreak as soon as possible.

Q – How do the suppression blocks work?

A – The suppression blocks contain an attractant (Cue-Lure) and an insecticide (maldison). When placed in fruit trees within the outbreak area, they attract male fruit flies, which are killed by the insecticide when they land on the block.

As male flies are killed, the females are left with no mates and cannot lay fertile eggs to continue their life cycle.

The technique has been used in Australia since the 1950's and is widely used throughout the world as one method of fruit fly control.

Q – How long will the blocks be in my garden?

A – Depending on weather conditions and other factors, the blocks will attract and kill fruit flies for at least 2-3 months after they are installed. Our staff will come back and remove the blocks when their activity begins to wear off.

Q – What else can we do to help control the fruit fly outbreak?

A – As a householder, you can play a very important role in helping us to eradicate this outbreak. In particular, it is very important that you look after your fruit trees carefully.

Fruit should be harvested as it begins to ripen, to deprive female fruit flies of their preferred sites for laying eggs.

Never allow ripe fruit to remain on trees or fall to the ground as this would provide ideal breeding conditions for fruit flies.

Q – How safe are the suppression blocks?

A – The insecticide (maldison) used in suppression blocks is a short-lived product that is available in many garden centres for use against various pests. Only a small amount of insecticide is used in the traps.

We hang the blocks at least 2m above ground to keep them out of the reach of children and pets. Avoid handling the blocks and if you accidentally come into contact with the blocks, wash your hands thoroughly with water and soap as soon as possible.

Attached to each block is a warning label which provides advice relating to the chemical composition of the block, and a DPI contact phone number (136 186).