

NOTIFICATION ABOUT A FRUIT FLY ERADICATION PROGRAM

Dear Householder,

Your property is in a fruit fly outbreak area. The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is conducting a program to eradicate fruit flies from your area.

Fruit fly eradication in this area is a free community service. It is funded by the Victorian Government to prevent fruit fly from infesting the Melbourne Wholesale Market and disrupting supplies of fresh fruit to Victorian and interstate consumers. It will also help to maintain the quality of home-grown fruit in your area.

The success of the program depends on your assistance.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- By providing easy access to your home garden for DPI fruit fly officers.
- By **NOT** removing any raw host fruit from your property, to limit the chances of further outbreaks.
- By **NOT** composting surplus or spoiled host fruit from your property.
- By contacting DPI on 136 186 to arrange collection of surplus fruit and vegetables.
- By taking only fruit which is processed, stewed, preserved or jam from your property.
- By reading the "Fruit fly and the home garden" brochure that accompanies this letter.

PROGRAM DETAILS:

DPI officers may soon be visiting to apply a liquid chemical bait mixture to selected trees and shrubs on your property.

Baits may be applied once or twice weekly, for up to 12 weeks, to trees of suitable height and foliage (which may include trees other than fruit trees). Baits are applied to trees as 50 or 100mL 'spots', using a knapsack (or power) unit.

The bait is a diluted mixture of Naturalure® fruit fly bait concentrate and water that attracts and kills adult fruit flies. Naturalure® contains naturally occurring attractants and control agents with extremely low toxicity and a short residual life. Naturalure® is suitable for use with organic produce and is registered with Biological Farmers of Australia.

Alternatively, DPI officers may place canite bait blocks in suitable trees/bushes. Bait blocks attract and kill adult fruit flies and will be left in place for about 3 months.

Additional technical information on these applications is available on request from DPI on 136 186 or from the DPI website www.dpi.vic.gov.au/psb

Please note:

Fruit from treated plants can be picked and eaten directly after baits are applied. However, always wash the fruit thoroughly.

A baiting team member will leave a note in your letter box showing the date when he/she visited your property and applied baits. This will be done after each visit.

GENERAL:

- DPI will not remove host fruit from your trees unless it is infested with fruit fly, or there are exceptional circumstances.
- DPI will notify you if it becomes necessary to alter the eradication program.
- DPI officers are easily identified by uniform and will produce identification upon request. If you are in doubt about a person's identity please contact DPI on 136 186.
- At the completion of the program, we will advise you by leaflet. Only after this can host fruit be removed from your property.
- DPI realises the quarantine restrictions and eradication program will cause some inconvenience, but your cooperation will greatly assist in eradicating fruit fly.
- If you find maggots in any fruit, please phone DPI on 136 186.
- Please contact us on 136 186 if you need more information or if there is a situation on your property that we should be aware of (dogs, locked gates etc). Your response within 24-48 hours of receiving this notice would be appreciated.

Thank you for your assistance.



PATRICK SHARKEY
Manager Plant Standards