

# QFF Life Cycle



## What to do with infested fruit

Infested fruit must be boiled, frozen (for 24 hours or more until completely solid) or cooked in the microwave. This will kill larvae (maggots) in the infested fruit and works well with small amounts of fruit.

Larger amounts of fruit can be sealed in plastic bags and left in the sun. Make sure that the bag is completely sealed and left out for a minimum of 3 days to thoroughly bake all of the fruit right through. The bags of fruit or smaller batches of treated fruit must then be put in the garbage bin. Do not compost it as there may still be some remaining pupae that could hatch.

This information has been brought together for the community by the community, with special thanks to Nicole Porter, Ian Lillington, Andrew Jessup and Liz Patterson for illustrations and design.



# Queensland Fruit Fly

## Central Victoria

Queensland fruit fly is a **SERIOUS PEST** of fruit and vegetables in Eastern Australia and it has made a home in Central Victoria.

No need to panic.  
Plan and adapt.



# Managing Queensland Fruit Fly

**Remove** trees you don't need. Low yielding trees, and late ripening fruit may not justify the time and effort of preventing QFF. Consider whether a neighbour or friend could share harvests to reduce the number of trees requiring care.

**Prune** in autumn or winter to encourage new growth and also to a height that makes netting easy. Prune in Summer to reduce the height of trees without encouraging growth.

**Monitor** evergreen trees like citrus in winter especially if planted close to houses or other heated buildings. QFF like to hibernate in warm places.

**Be vigilant** when fruit is ripening as females prefer to lay their eggs in ripe fruit. Look for pin prick marks on fruit, soft areas or fruit that is rotten from the centre out. If you do find these things you may have QFF and you should dispose of the fruit. See instructions on the back of this sheet.

**Other tips.** \*Fruit can be removed or reduced from plants when small ensuring shade and the beauty of blossoms can still be enjoyed.

\*Volunteer in local produce gardens in exchange for sharing the harvest.

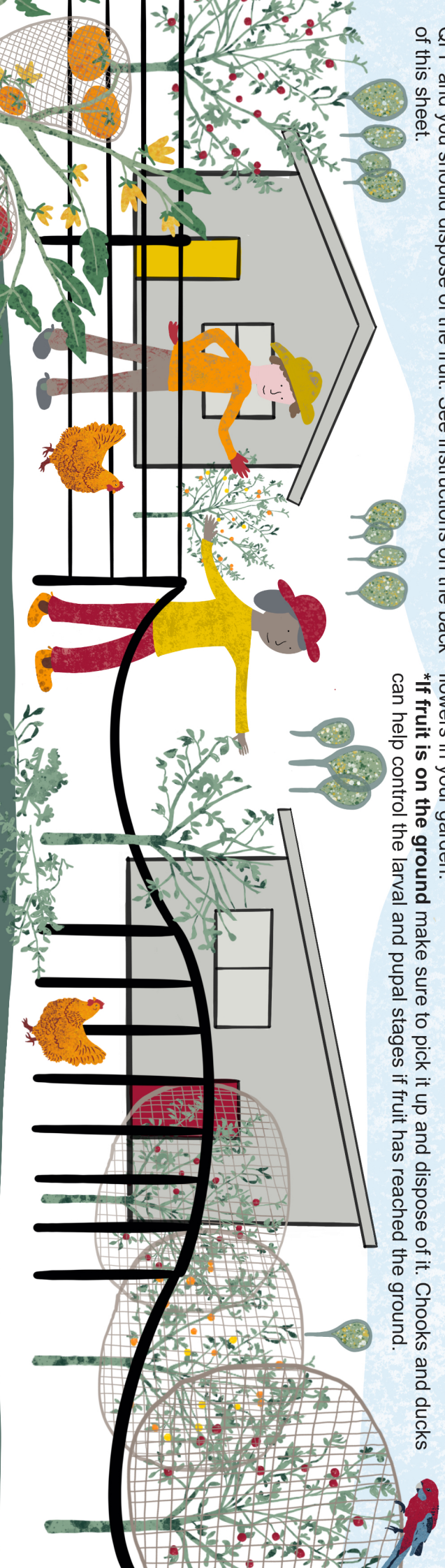
\*Managing QFF is a neighbourhood effort so talk to your neighbours about it. One tree with fruit left for QFF to breed in and rot can enable 100,000s of QFF to be born.

\*There are various sprays and traps available to help with QFF management, talk to your local nursery about your garden and which of these options may suit your needs best. A simple monitoring trap is handy to assess if you have QFF in your garden.

\*Some varieties of fruit and vegetables are more resistant to QFF so consider choosing these varieties (e.g. cherry tomatoes over larger fruiting varieties).

\*Encourage QFF predators in your garden by providing them habitat. Some predators of QFF are parasitoid wasps, dragonflies, lacewings, ants, spiders, ground beetles, robber flies and insectivorous birds. Encouraging them can be as simple as planting a range of other plants and flowers in your garden.

\*If fruit is on the ground make sure to pick it up and dispose of it. Chooks and ducks can help control the larval and pupal stages if fruit has reached the ground.



## Keeping QFF off your fruit - 2 options.

**Exclusion netting:** netting whole trees/plants with insect or QFF specific netting or bagging individual branches, bunches, or trusses is possible. Consider a netting 'cage' to enclose your fruiting trees and plants, this will help to make sure no fruit is touching the net. Buying bulk quantities of netting with others can save on postage and transport. Make sure any fruit not netted is removed.

**Early picking:** This requires time in the garden tasting and observing your harvest. QFF prefer ripe fruits, so early picking when possible can limit damage. Early picking is ideal for fruits that continue to ripen after picking (for example nectarines, peaches, tomatoes). The longer the fruit is on the tree, the riper and more attractive to QFF it becomes.