Steps for Commercial
Queensland Fruit Fly Management

Monitoring and Baiting – ESSENTIAL steps to manage fruit fly in the orchard

1. Monitoring for fruit fly with MAT Traps
   • MAT traps hung every 250m around the outside of the orchard and some placed down a row through the middle of the farm. The suggestion is 10-20 MAT/ha.
   • Hang traps on the eastern side of fruit trees about 1.5m high.
   • Monitor traps weekly in spring, weekly in, summer and autumn and fortnightly in winter
   • Remove and count the fruit flies. Keep a record of the flies caught for each trap so you can follow fruit fly population trends on your farm.
   • Replace trap wicks every 3 months.
   • Brands include: BioTrap, and Bugs for Bugs, for example.

NOTE: MAT traps - stands for male annihilation technology. MAT traps only attract, trap and kill the male Qfly. This is why it is critical that routine bait spraying is implemented in conjunction with the use of MAT traps.

Female Biased Fruit Fly Gel Attractant for Traps
   • Female biased fruit fly gel attractant is now available for purchase.
   • The gel does attract male Qfly but predominantly female Qfly.
   • The gel provides greater protection against Qfly attack.
   • To be used in conjunction with baiting.

Monitoring fruit & early harvest:
   • Inspect fruit weekly for fruit fly maggots. If there are maggots inside, see instructions below for cover spray.
   • Ripening fruit is most attractive to fruit fly. Harvest the fruit as early as possible.
2. Protein Bait Spraying Every 7-10 days Spring, Summer, Autumn

About protein bait spraying combination

Protein bait spraying is a method of fruit fly control entailing the mixing and application of a protein bait (attractant) and a registered insecticide. Regular bait spraying is effective as females feed on protein prior to laying eggs. The insecticide kills the fruit fly before egg lay can occur.

• Bait spray will kill both female and male fruit flies.

• Protein bait spraying is applied to the lower foliage of the tree, avoiding as much fruit as practical. Do NOT purposely target FRUIT. Bait spraying soil does not kill fruit flies.

• Protein bait spraying is an effective and integrated pest management (IPM)-friendly method to control fruit fly

How to apply protein bait spray

a) Wear personal protecting equipment (PPE) when applying bait.

b) Mix protein lure and insecticide as per label instructions. Do not apply more than is recommended. Failing to follow label directions can damage fruit.

MIXING RATES

Mixture:

Abamectin (APVMA PERMIT 14932): 25mls/100L water mixed with

For example, Bugs for Bugs protein bait lure, 2L/ 100L

Or Bio-Trap Hymlure, 2L/100L, AND a thickener, such as KELTROL at 5g per Litre of protein bait lure

Hy-Mal®: 435ml/100L water mixed with

For example, Bugs for Bugs protein bait lure, 2L/ 100L

Or Bio-Trap Hymlure, 2L/ 100L

c) Use a suitable application method e.g. quad bike or mule etc. Spray the protein bait mixture onto the lower skirt of trees with a hollow cone nozzle. Alternatively use a hand spray gun to spot spray bait mix high enough to prevent children and pets from reaching the bait.
APPLICATION RATES

Boom:
15-20L/ha every second tree

Spot Spraying:
Approximately 50-100ml of mixture/tree (every second tree)

Maggots or Larvae already in fruit

• If maggots are present in fruit, cover spray with a registered systemic insecticide. Cover sprays disrupt beneficial insect activity in orchards. Monitor for insect pests like mites and scale.

• Two consecutive cover sprays over one week may be required to kill larvae

• Proceed IMMEDIATELY with a bait spraying program every 7-10 days during spring, summer and autumn. Two protein bait sprays per week may be required until numbers are reduced in monitoring trap counts

• If the next generation of flies hatch, apply another single coverspray.

For further information:
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Farm visits are offered for fruit fly identification

CONTACT: Agricultural product retailers for Queensland fruit fly management products. Discuss mixing rates and application with their horticultural staff. ALWAYS READ THE PRODUCT LABEL.

Acknowledgment: this guide was prepared by Tammy Galvin and Andrew Creek