

Basics of Qfly baiting

Managing Queensland fruit fly in dried fruit



1

Identify

Know what Qfly look like; generally between 5 to 8mm long, reddish-brown in colour, with distinct yellow markings. Their wings are clear with brown veins and have an expanse of around 10 to 12 mm. Females have an ovipositor (stinger) used to pierce fruit skins and inject eggs into fruit flesh.



2

Monitor

Check for the presence of Qfly in the vineyard through trapping. Don't wait to see fruit damage before starting a baiting program. Prepare to bait at the first sighting of a Qfly in a trap. This is the most effective way to control Qfly numbers and limit damage in a vineyard.



3

Prepare bait

Bait contains a protein (that's irresistible to Qfly) mixed with an insecticide. Bait can be mixed with a gum (guar or xanthium) to help it last longer. Baits can be bought premixed, or can be prepared by producers to reduce costs. Wear PPE when working with baits and follow label directions for use.



4

Apply bait

Baits need to be sprayed where Qfly prefer to eat – in a shady position. But, baits must not come into contact with fruit. Drying emulsion may rinse bait off leaves even if bait had only been applied lightly on the non-fruiting side, and runoff capture and recirculation may lead to fruit contamination. Baits can be sprayed or painted on trunks/posts. Avoiding direct sunlight by applying on the shaded side of the post or vine and applying below catching plate height are preferable. Apply bait every 2-3 rows.

5

Monitor and repeat

The monitoring program needs to be maintained, and fortnightly spray bait applications are needed while flies are still being caught in monitoring traps. Berries may still be susceptible for a short period following bearer cutting.

Keep in mind

Early in the season, Qfly numbers can be suppressed through the use of MAT cups, which attract and kill male flies diminishing the availability of mating partners. MAT cups complement the later baiting program. Qflies don't disappear when the fruit has gone to the processor. Ensuring Qfly numbers are diminished going into winter will mean Qfly numbers in spring and going into summer are also reduced making control easier. Always follow directions of use for safety and to ensure no insecticide contaminates fruit.



Be prepared



Apply bait



Monitor & repeat

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