

REFILLING YOUR BIOTRAP TO TACKLE QUEENSLAND FRUIT FLY



Credit: GSPFA

Yellow plastic BioTraps were provided to urban residents across the Greater Sunraysia region to help monitor and trap Queensland Fruit Flies (QFF) between 2016-2018. These traps can be easily refilled and re-used extending their life, saving you money as well as reducing waste.

What you will need:

Old BioTraps

Any BioTrap older than 3 months will no longer attract or kill flies and needs to be refilled (Image 1 and 2). Some old traps become brittle with age, so take care when refilling, to avoid splitting or cracking the plastic, as the flies may be able to escape before being killed.

BioTrap Gel and Insecticide cubes.

You will need a bottle of gel and insecticide cubes. These can be purchased from numerous local supplier - a list of stockists is available at www.pestfreearea.com.au



Image 1: The insecticide cube will kill the fly that enters the trap. Without the cube you will just be feeding flies Credit: GSPFA

At a glance

- If you have old yellow plastic BioTraps they can be re-used and refilled.
- Refilling traps every three months ensures they continue to attract and kill fruit flies all year round.
- Traps are only one tool to use in the fight against Queensland Fruit Fly and should be used in conjunction with other measures such as bait sprays, insect nets and good hygiene for best results.
- A short video is also available demonstrating how to refill your BioTraps. www.pestfreearea.com.au

FURTHER INFORMATION

www.pestfreearea.com.au

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How to refill a BioTrap:

1. Open the trap by carefully easing the clear plastic lid off the yellow base.
2. Clean out the trap if possible. However, it is alright if the dried gel remains in the trap, this won't reduce its effectiveness. Old gel can be softened by soaking in water for 5 - 10 minutes.
3. Carefully pour 50-60mls of BioTrap attractant gel into the trap. The gel is mostly protein, combined with a food-grade gum and a very small amount of ammonium hydroxide to stop fungal growth. It has been formulated specially to attract hungry QFF.
4. Add 1 yellow insecticide cube to the trap. This step is important as the cube has the chemical that kills the fly. Without the cube you are just feeding flies.
5. Carefully re-attach the lid of the BioTrap and hang the trap in a shady tree.
6. Wash your hands thoroughly and store any unused gel or cubes in an airtight container, in a cool, dry place, that is well-ventilated and out of the reach of children and pets.



Image 2: Refill the old traps in a well-ventilated space such as outside and on a solid surface. Credit: GS PFA

Where to hang your trap:

The traps should be hung in trees where the flies are most likely to be. This increases the chances of the fly entering the trap. Traps should be hung:

- inside the canopy of a shady tree. The tree doesn't have to be a fruit tree;
- on the side of the tree that gets the morning sun and afternoon shade – eastern side. Traps in the shade will also last longer;
- at least 1.5m from the ground. This also keeps it out of reach of animals and small children.
- one trap every 15 metres is recommended for home gardens.

When to check your trap for fruit flies:

Check traps every week during spring, summer and autumn and then fortnightly during winter or if there is a couple of warm days (around 15°C).

Getting the best result from your traps:

- Make it a habit to refill your traps throughout the year so they are always working. The start of a new season could be a useful reminder.
- When checking your traps weekly, if you are catching blowflies it may mean the protein has gone off and needs to be changed.
- When refilling traps make sure there is no gel on the outside of the trap as this will prevent flies from entering the trap and being killed.
- The traps only attract flies from 10 to 15 metres so the best result will be achieved if they are hung near to where the flies are likely to be (see “where to hang your trap” below).
- Avoid hanging traps in the sun as they will quickly become hot-houses that repel flies.
- Homemade recipes and traps are effective at drowning flies in the same liquid that attracts them. The same recipes do not work as well with the yellow plastic BioTrap as the hole in the base limits the amount of liquid that can be used so it dries up too quickly to be effective.