



## Fruit Fly Lure Fact Sheet

The fruit fly season begins in Queensland in October and lasts right the way through till about May. The fruit fly causes major damage to fruit and vegetables when the female fruit fly lays eggs into developing fruit. As the eggs hatch the familiar maggots feed on the fruit before emerging to continue the life cycle. The images below show a fairly typical female fruit fly (left) and maggots inside fruit (right).



If you are growing fruit or vegetables you may well want to control fruit fly in your garden. Most gardeners these days are looking to use some of the environmentally friendly products like Organic Crop Protectants Eco Nature lure or the Fruit fly control from Yates. The way which these products work is that they use a pheromone that is attractive to the female fruit fly to lure them to the product. The products contain a food source and a naturally occurring insecticide. When the insect begins to feed on the product it ingests enough of the insecticide to kill it. They work to actively kill the female fruit fly which is really quite different from earlier baits that attracted the male flies. While these are still useful to estimate numbers present they had limited value in stopping infection as in the fruit above.

To use the new generation female lure sprays you can apply

- Directly to trees or trunks
- Spray on fences or yellow boards
- Make your own bait station



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### Making your own bait station

What you will need is

- A few milk bottles with lids
- Yellow sponge
- Wire
- Nail to make a hole
- Sharp knife
- Yellow spray paint



The idea is to cut out one side of the bottle to make an entrance for the female fruit flies to fly into. When you have done this you will need to paint it yellow. Yellow is a powerfully attractive colour to most insects including fruit flies and this will help to make the bait station more effective.







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Attach the wire to the lid to make a hook to hang in trees or near the vegetable garden. By doing this you be sure that the lure will not be diluted by rain and also reduce evaporation.

When you have done this you are ready to fill the bait station. Always read the label carefully and follow the directions. For the Yates Fruit fly killer fill the bottom of the bottle with about 120ml of water and 20ml of the product. Ensure that the product and water are well mixed prior to placing in the bait station.

The station is then ready to hang in the your fruit tree or vegetable garden. You will need to keep the mixture topped up—probably about every 7—10 days.

