MEDIA RELEASE

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Reaping the sweet rewards

Joe Tartaglia is encouraging fellow Kerang residents to consider removing their fruit trees to help control Queensland fruit fly (Qfly) across the region.

By being diligent with Qfly management in their own backyard, Joe and his wife Beryl have successfully kept the pest out of their fruit this year.

Joe said they're willing to put in the work because they love picking fresh fruit to eat or bottle.

"We have lots of trees – three citrus, two plums and one large apricot –– because we enjoy eating our own tasty fruit rather than buying it from the shops," he said.

"But we take important measures to keep fruit fly out.

"If you are not prepared to manage your fruit trees, please consider removing them to help those who are following the strategies for fruit fly control.

"It is pointless having fruit trees in your garden that are infested every year."

Joe and Beryl use a variety of control strategies at home, including traps, nets and sprays.

"We have traps in the trees to monitor any fruit flies in the area," Joe said.

"The citrus haven't needed much attention yet, but we use insect nets on the plum trees and have had success with using these. We net the trees when the fruit is very small and have not any infestation.

"The apricot tree is too big to net, so we need to spray it and we've had no infestation since using this control. I am also vigilant in picking up daily any fruit that drops and putting it in a plastic bag."

Joe said they are considering whether to remove the apricot tree as it is too large to net and can't be pruned to a manageable height.

To register for free tree removal, and for many more tips to help you control Qfly in your garden, contact GSPFA on 03 5022 0327 or visit the new-look website at www.pestfreearea.com.au.

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