

**The Department of Agriculture and Food, in partnership with industry and suppliers, assess CONE TRAP as a mass trapping device in the south-west.**

Mediterranean fruit fly or Medfly is a serious horticultural pest in the Perth Hills and southern regions of Western Australia. It attacks a range of cultivated fruits including some fruiting vegetables.

Fruit flies are widely recognised as the world's worst economic pest of fruit. Apart from lowering production and making fruit inedible, their presence has severe consequences on trade to sensitive markets, both locally and internationally.

## New devices being trialled in the fight against fruit fly (Ceratitis capitata)



**In the ongoing battle to win the war against Mediterranean fruit fly, the Department of Agriculture and Food, in partnership with industry and suppliers, is trialling two new mass trapping devices in the south-west.**

The first device, Magnet™ MED, consists of a flat white board, enclosing a dry attractant, coated with pesticide on the outside surface.

The second device, Cone Trap, consists of a yellow cone shaped base with a clear lid.

The dry attractant is placed inside the base, and the clear lid of the trap has been sprayed with pesticide.

Whilst quite different in appearance, both devices attract nearby adult Medfly, particularly females as they seek protein.

Medflies are killed when they walk on the surface of the Magnet™ MED device or on the underside of the lid as they try to escape from the Cone Trap.

The dry lures do not attract Medfly from very far away, so they need to be regularly and even spaced within the area to be protected.

In stone fruit orchards for example, at a rate of 80 devices per hectare.

The local trials are part of a larger project to develop new control measures without the use of cover sprays. The aim is to determine efficacy of these devices.

Ideally, mass trapping will control Medfly without the need of other chemical treatments.

However, growers may need to apply bait sprays in some areas and good orchard hygiene is very important to prevent spikes in Medfly numbers.

Medfly will be monitored during the trial so that remedial action can be carried out if required.

Fruit loss as a result of Medfly damage will also be assessed at the end of the trial.

At the conclusion of the trial, we will have efficacy data that can be used to support registration, and information to determine if they are a 'stand alone' technique, or if mass trapping needs to be used in conjunction with other treatments.

For information about how to control Mediterranean fruit fly, refer to the [Fruit fly page of the DAFWA website](#) or contact the [Pest and Disease Information Service \(PADIS\)](#) on 1800 084 881.

For more information contact [Alec McCarthy](#), Development Officer, Bunbury on 9780 6273 or [Sonia Broughton](#), Senior Research Officer, South Perth on 9368 3271.

**Photo (Main) Mass trapping devices for the control of Mediterranean fruit fly under trial in Western Australia.**

