Fruit tree netting and wildlife

Netting is commonly used to protect fruit trees. Unfortunately, many of these net types are the leading cause of flying fox injury and death.

To test if your netting is wildlife-safe, see if you can fit a finger through the netting holes. If you can, don't put the net on your trees, and help keep wildlife safe!

Photos: Denise Wade

Wildlife-safe netting tips

- Use only small aperture white netting, 5mm x 5mm or less. If single strand, 2mm x 2mm or less.

- Remove netting from trees once fruit has been harvested or is over-ripe.

- While using netting, check your trees daily to ensure no wildlife are entangled.

- Pick fruit early and leave your tree un-netted.

- Never throw netting loosely over trees – fix tightly to branches or tie onto trunk.

- Thirty percent blockout shadecloth can also be used. It's wildlife-safe and will not stop fruit from ripening. You can also re-use it the following year.

- Never use netting if fingers can be pushed through holes.

- Consider netting selected branches only rather than the entire tree (see image below).

For injured wildlife, contact your local rescue organisation: https://www.wildlife.vic.gov.au/sick-injured-or-orphaned-wildlife

Accessibility

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