



Wildlife-Safe Netting

Many native animals feed on flowering and fruiting trees in our backyards, leading some people to protect their fruit by covering their trees with loose netting. Many don't realise that this type of netting can be deadly to native wildlife including flying-foxes (also known as fruit-bats), birds, possums and small reptiles.



Choosing the right netting

- If you can poke your finger through the holes in the net, then it is a hazard to many species of wildlife.
- You can protect individual fruit as it grows with 'fruit protection bags' and leave some fruit at the top of the tree for the critters.
- A shadecloth, or netting brands such as Fruitsaver, Hailguard and Vegenet work well when pulled and secured tightly around the tree. As a guide, the mesh diameter should be less than 2mm so that you can't poke your finger through.
- Possums, reptiles and grey-headed flying foxes (fruit bats) are especially susceptible to netting entanglement - please refer to our species fact sheets for more information.



We hope that by increasing your understanding and awareness of our beautiful wildlife, you feel empowered to deal with wildlife situations confidently in an informed, safe and appropriate manner. For support at any time, please call our emergency response service for advice on **03 8400 7300** or report the details on our website: www.wildlifelifevictoria.org.au.