**How to bag fruits?**

1. Either individual fruit, or fruit clusters or the whole tree can be bagged. Insect pollinated fruits should be bagged after fruit set.

2. The bag should be opened and the fruit inserted inside.

3. The opened end of the bag should be tied with a piece of string or wire.

4. Alternatively, a fruit sleeve made up of cloth material and open at both ends can be used to slide along a branch and to bag several fruits. Bags should be removed when fruits ripen.

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**Pruning of Fruit Trees for Easy Bagging**

Bagging of fruits can be rendered easy by pruning of big fruit trees. Pruning of fruit trees increases quality fruit production. Trees do not grow tall and fruits can easily be reached and bagged.

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**Advantages of Fruit Bagging**

1. It is cheap, safe and easy
2. It is environment friendly
3. It not only protects the fruits from fruit fly damage but also from bird, other pests, mechanical damage, latex burns and fungal spots
4. Certain bagging materials can be reused again in the next fruiting season.
5. It gives almost complete protection against fruit fly.
6. It produces better quality and bigger fruits.

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**Fruit fly species**
The most important fruit flies attacking fleshy fruits are the peach fruit fly (*Bactrocera zonata*), the Natal fruit fly (*Ceratitis rosa*) and the Mediterranean fruit fly (*Ceratitis capitata*).

- Peach fruit fly, *Bactrocera zonata*
- Natal fruit fly, *Ceratitis rosa*
- Mediterranean fruit fly, *Ceratitis capitata*

**Damage**
Fruit flies cause direct damage by puncturing the fruit skin to lay eggs. At the same time, they introduce bacteria into the fruit thereby causing rotting of the tissues surrounding the egg. When the eggs hatch, the larvae feed on the pulp making galleries which provide entry for pathogens, and increase the fruit decay, making fruits unsuitable for human consumption.

**Host Range**
Fruit flies attack a variety of soft and fleshy fruits such as mango, guava, peach, bibasse, papaya, coffee, mason, jujube.

**Bagging of fruits**
Besides chemical treatment, fruits can be physically protected against fruit flies by bagging them in bags made up of different materials. Female flies cannot lay eggs in the fruit. Bagging is inexpensive, easy to apply and gives almost 100% protection from fruit fly attack.

**Materials for bagging**
Fruits can be bagged with breathable materials such as old newspapers, waxed paper, ‘papier gris’, cloth material, mosquito netting, shade cloth or nylon fly screen material.

- Bagging with newspaper
- Bagging with ‘papier gris’
- Bagging with nylon netting